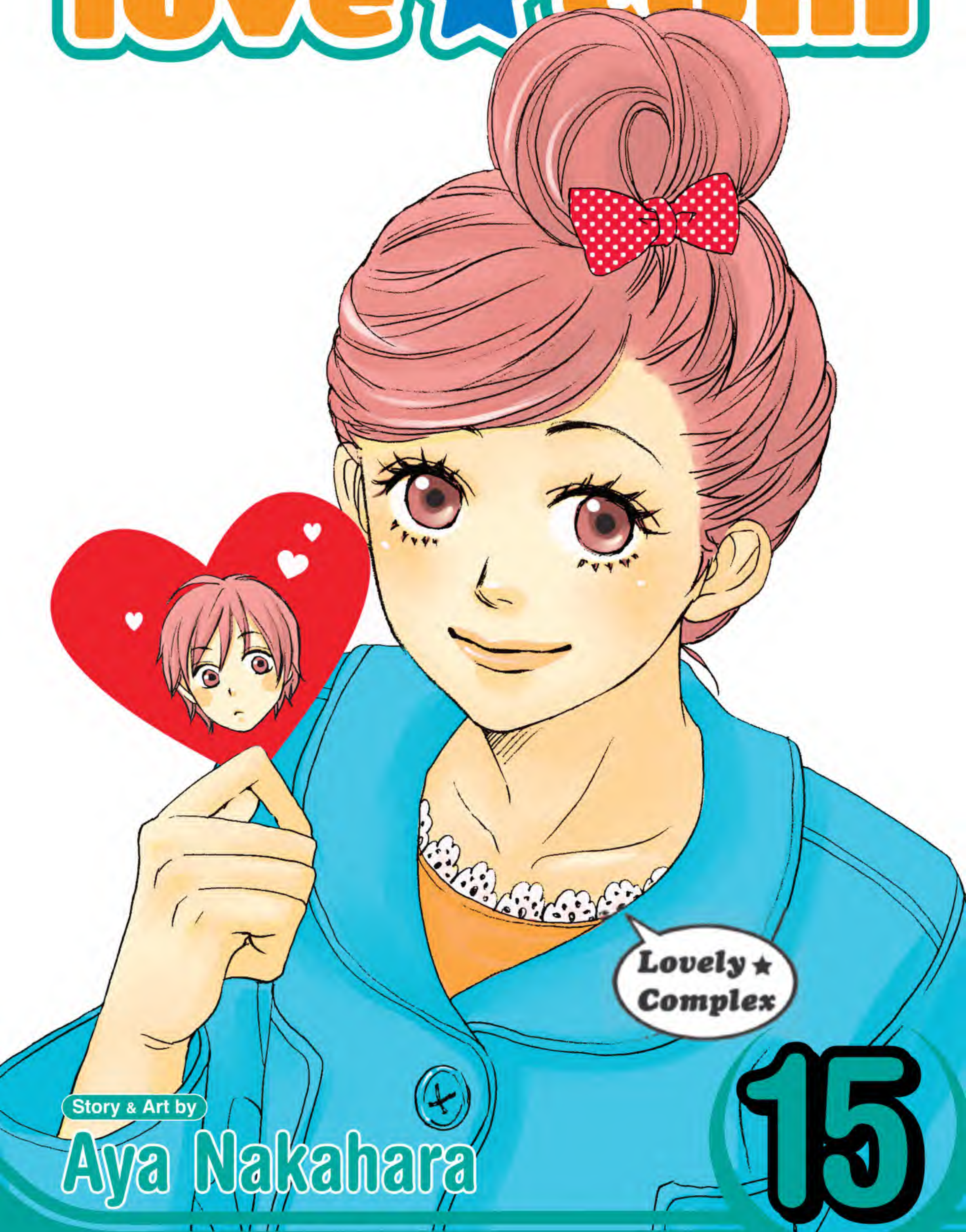


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Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

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Shojo Beat

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The Story So Far . . .

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lopsided comedy duo...and they've become a couple! Ôtani has been accepted into a teachers' college while Risa plans to become a fashion stylist.

Risa's grandfather doesn't approve of Ôtani, so he hires a hottie to lead him astray. It doesn't work—because Ôtani is already entangled with an even more dangerous woman, the scheming Hitomi! Risa and Ôtani brave Hitomi's yakuza friends to get their relationship back on track and win Grandpa's grudging approval.

Then Haruka and his fangirls ruin the couple's concert date by kidnapping Ôtani, but Risa and Ôtani's love remains strong...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* volumes 1–14, available at bookstores everywhere!!

Lovely☆
Complex



love☆com

Story & Art by
Aya Nakahara

15





CHAPTER 56





I WAS
SO
DAZED I
DIDN'T
GET HIS
NAME.

BE
CAREFUL,
OKAY?

HE
WAS MY
KNIGHT IN
SHINING
ARMOR.

YOU'RE
BUGGING
HER!



I DO!
I DO!
♡

I KNOW!
AND
DON'T
YOU GET
THE
SENSE
THAT IT'S
KARMA?

kyaa! ♡

HE'S
JUST
SUPER
NICE!

The
silhouette
makes
him look
like a
criminal.

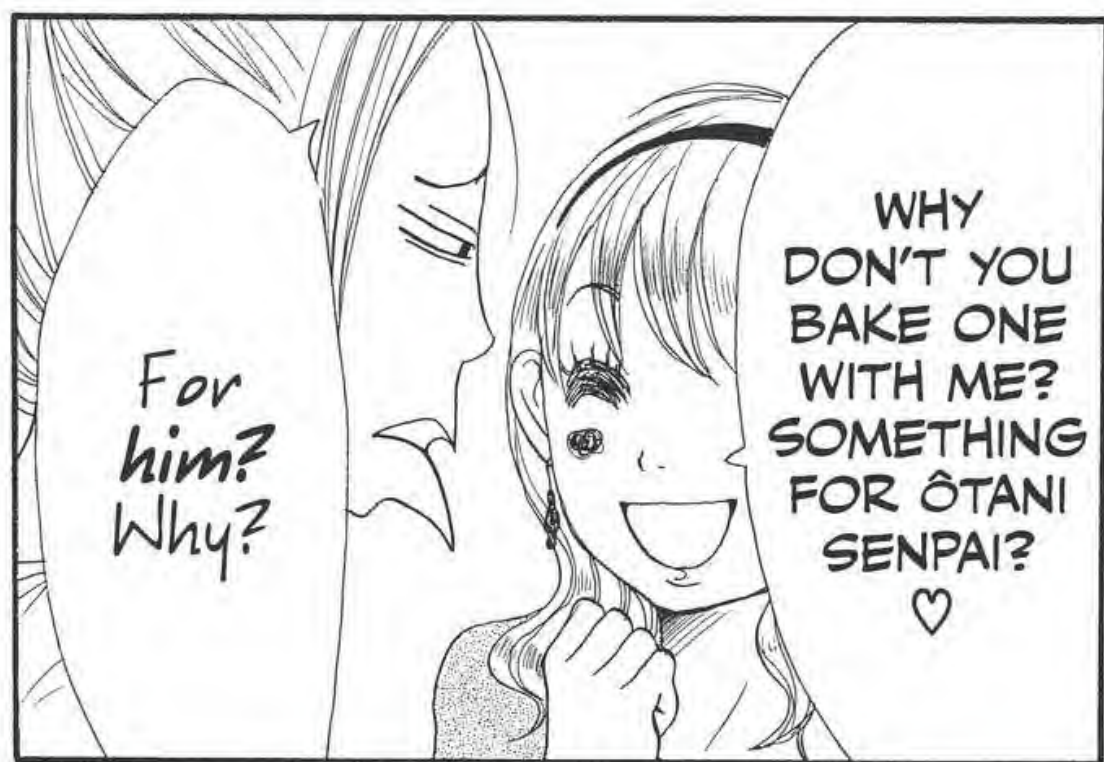
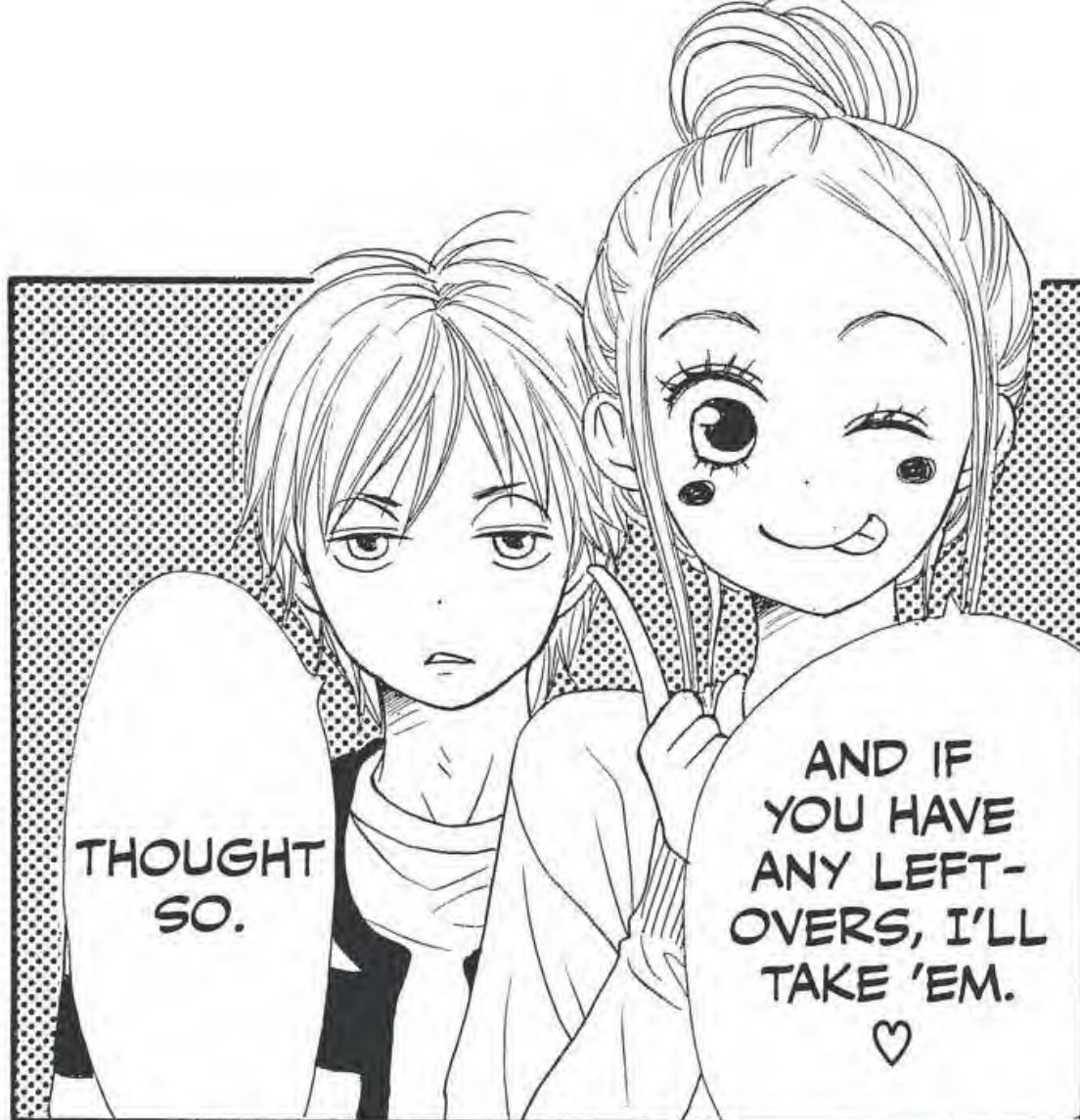


WHAT
KIND OF
PRESENT
WOULD
WORK?

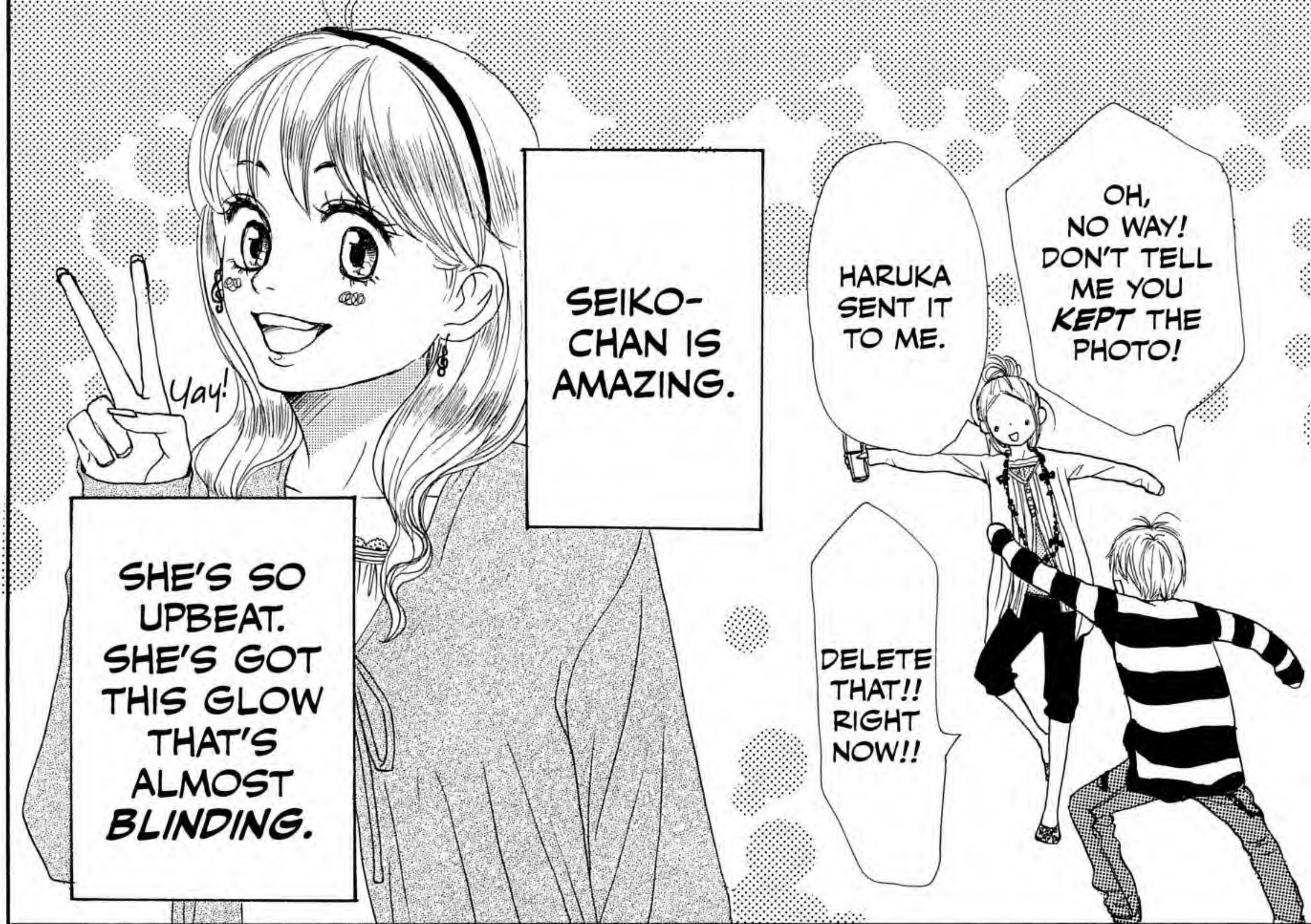
FOR
REAL?

I WANT TO
GIVE HIM A
THANK-YOU
GIFT AND
CONFESS
MY LOVE.

ANYWAY...







I SWEAR
I'LL
HELP HER
CATCH HER
KNIGHT IN
SHINING
ARMOR!!

I'LL DO
WHATEVER
I CAN
FOR HER.



Dear Risa,
Let's call today off.
Sorry. >.<
Seiko

MAYBE
SOME-
THING
HAPPENED
WITH THE
GUY SHE
LIKES.

BUT SHE
HASN'T
CONFESSED
HER LOVE
YET...

IS
SOME-
THING
WRONG?

SHE
DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING.
LOOKED
REALLY
DEPRESSED,
THOUGH.

HUH?

WHY
WOULD
WE? LIKE
YOU'RE
ANY
HELP...

NOBODY
TELLS ME
ANYTHING!

GUY
SHE
LIKES?
LOVE?

I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED...

...?

HOME ECONOMICS

CHAK

BING

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
IS IT
SERIOUS?

OH,
GOOD!
THERE
YOU
ARE!

CHAK

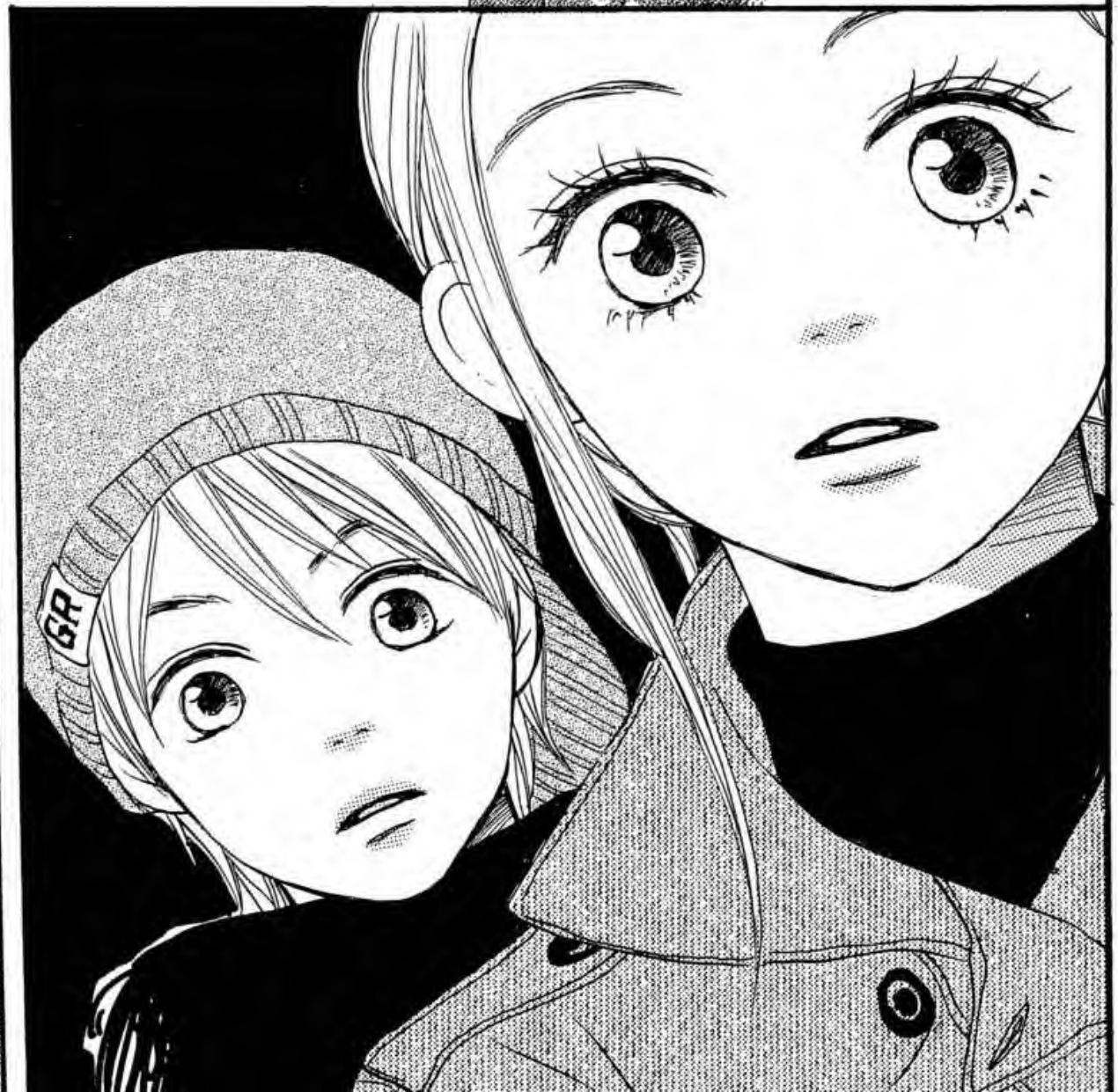
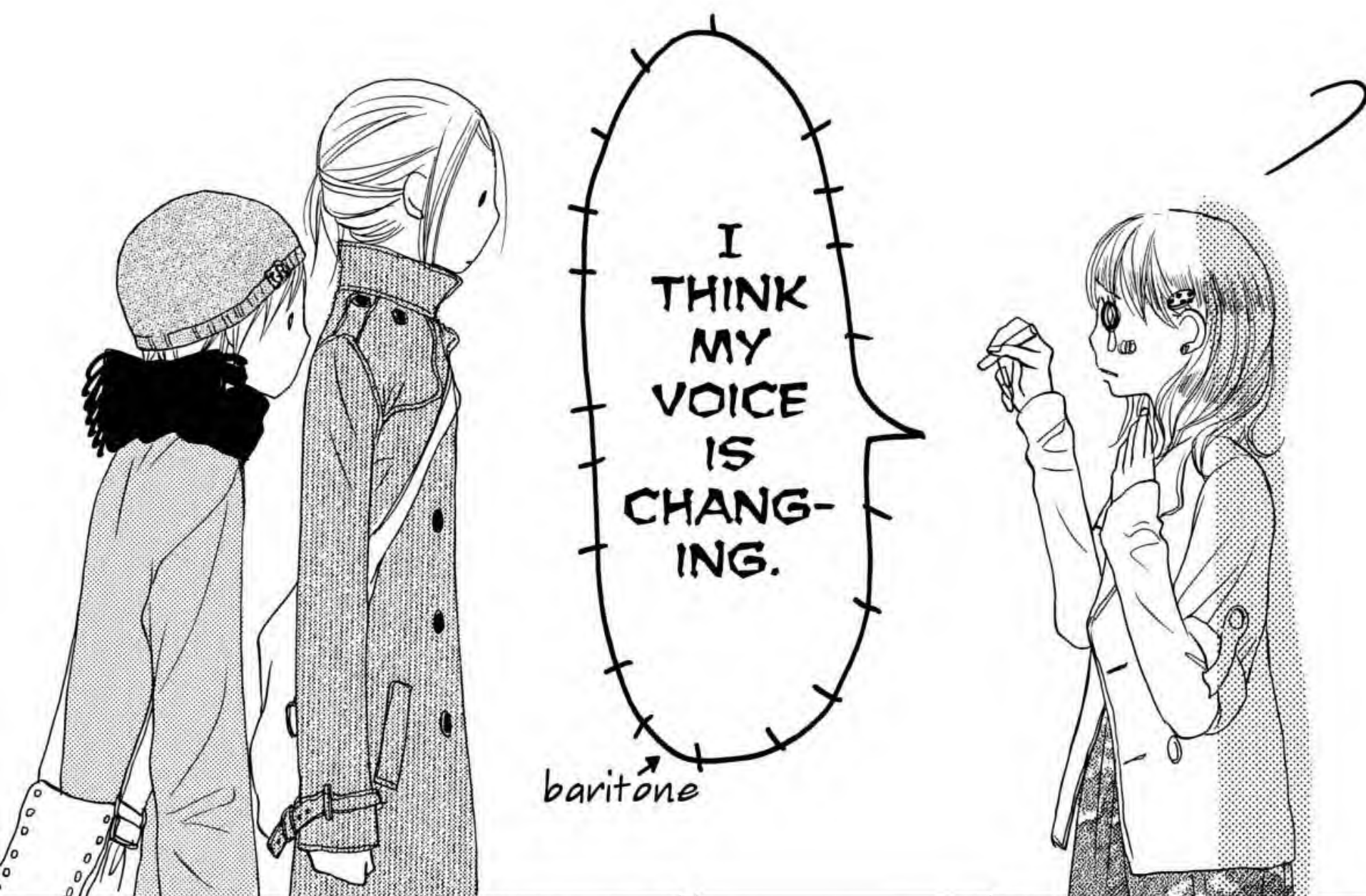
SH

VOICE?

NUH UH

DID
SOME-
THING
HAPPEN?

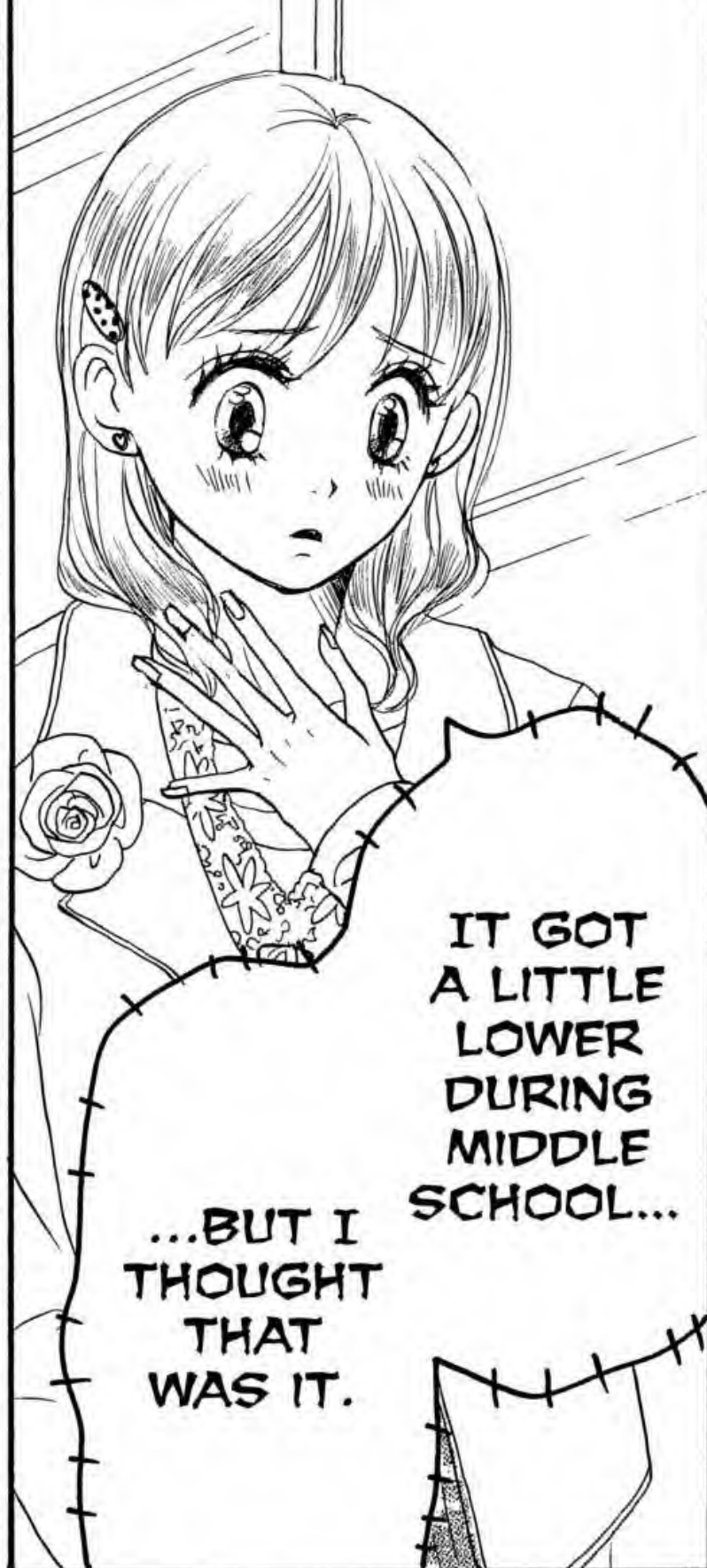
VOICE CHANGE 75





THIS HAS
GOTTA
BE A
SHOCK...

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?



IT GOT
A LITTLE
LOWER
DURING
MIDDLE
SCHOOL...

...BUT I
THOUGHT
THAT
WAS IT.



NOW?

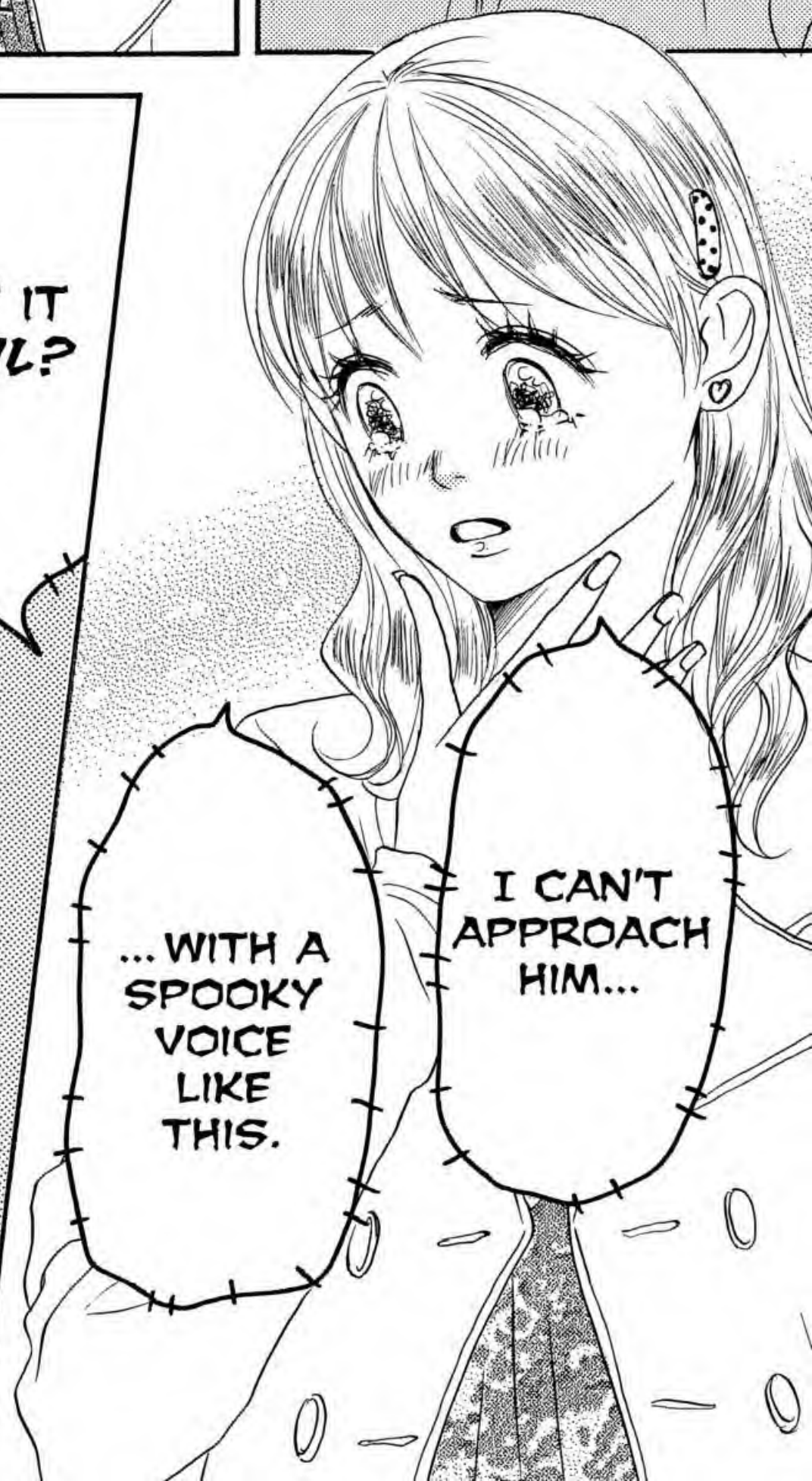


NO,
NOT
AT
ALL!

NO! I
SOUND
CREEPY!



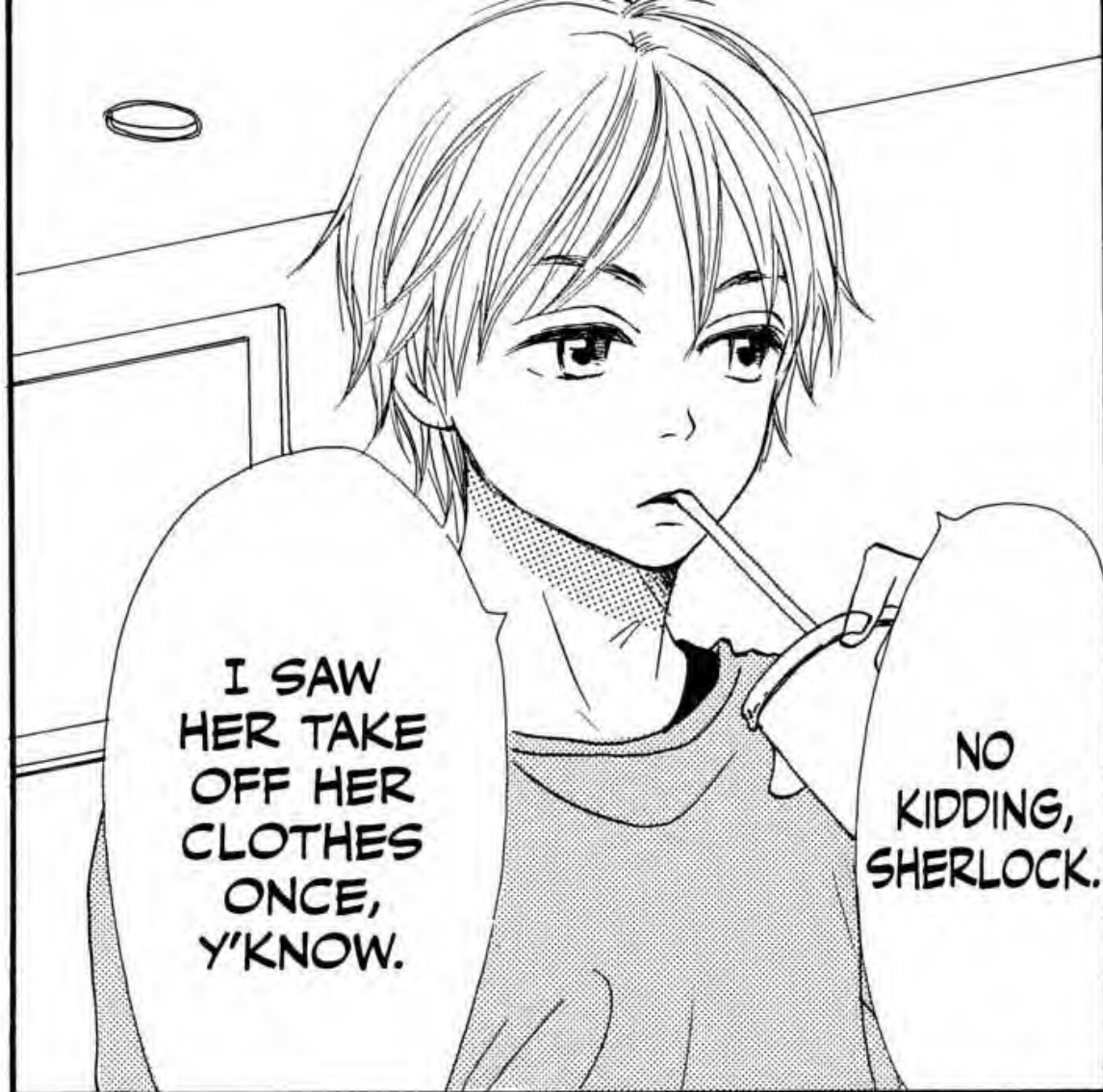
ISN'T IT
AWFUL?



...WITH A
SPOOKY
VOICE
LIKE
THIS.

I CAN'T
APPROACH
HIM...



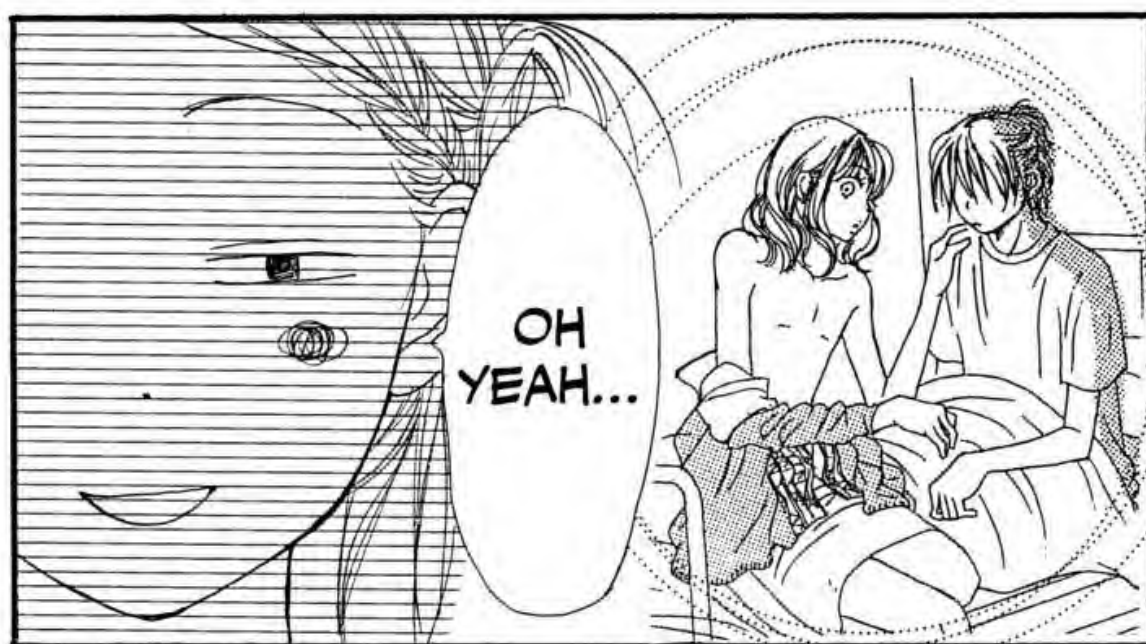


I SAW
HER TAKE
OFF HER
CLOTHES
ONCE,
Y'KNOW.

NO
KIDDING,
SHERLOCK.



I GUESS
UNDER
ALL THE
CUTENESS
SHE'S STILL
PHYSICALLY
A GUY.



OH
YEAH...



JUST
LIKE
YOUR
HEIGHT.

BUT
THERE'S
NOTHING
WE CAN
DO ABOUT
HER
VOICE.

WE'VE
GOTTA
HELP
HER.

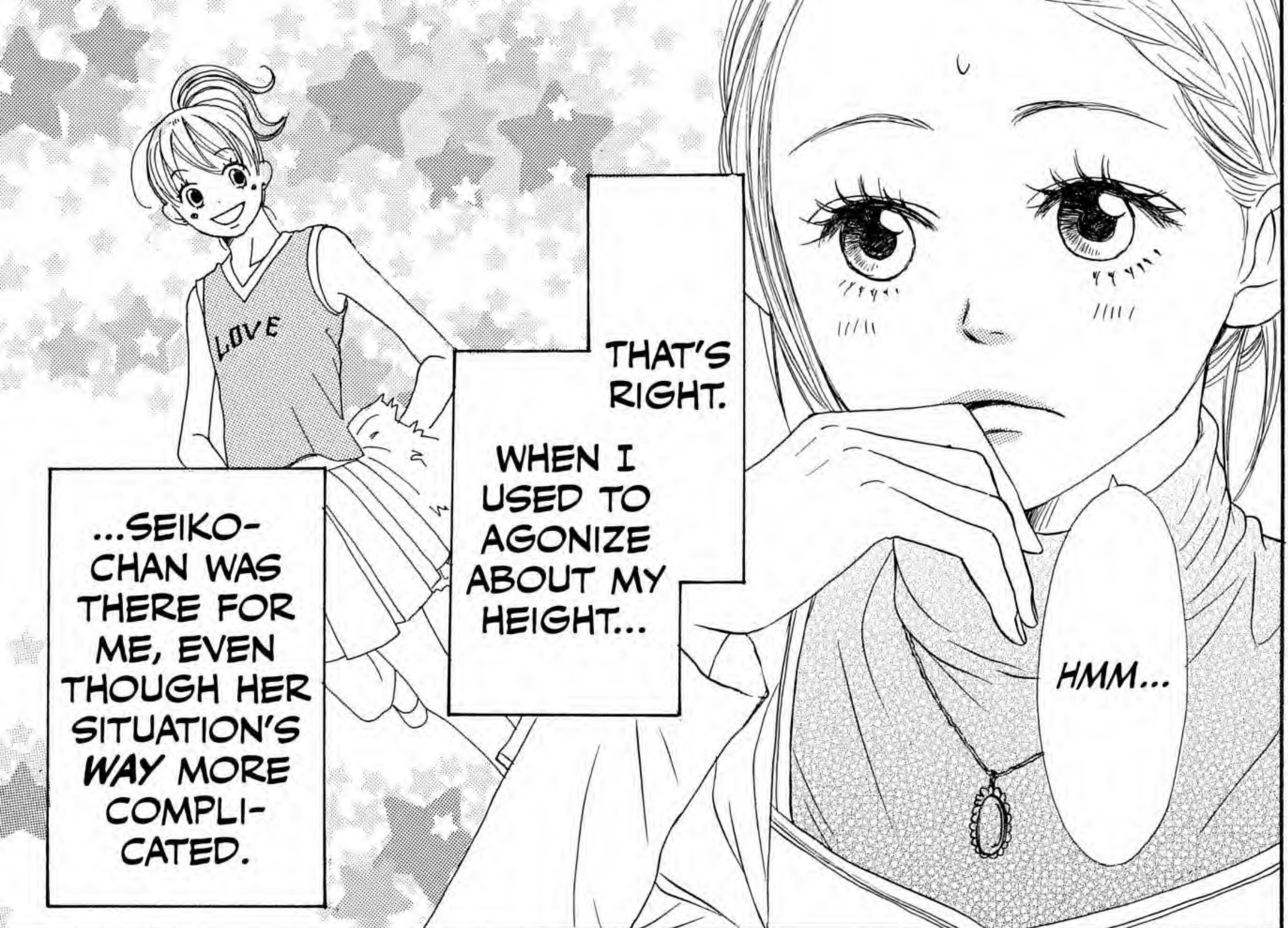


**DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT
PITYING
LOOK!!**



HEY, I
COULD GET
ANOTHER
GROWTH
SPURT.

OR
YOURS,
SHRIMP.



...SEIKO-
CHAN WAS
THERE FOR
ME, EVEN
THOUGH HER
SITUATION'S
WAY MORE
COMPLI-
CATED.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

WHEN I
USED TO
AGONIZE
ABOUT MY
HEIGHT...

HMM...



IT'S NOT
LIKE *I'VE*
GOT THE
PERFECT
FEMALE
FORM
EITHER!!

CHEER
UP,
SEIKO-
CHAN!!

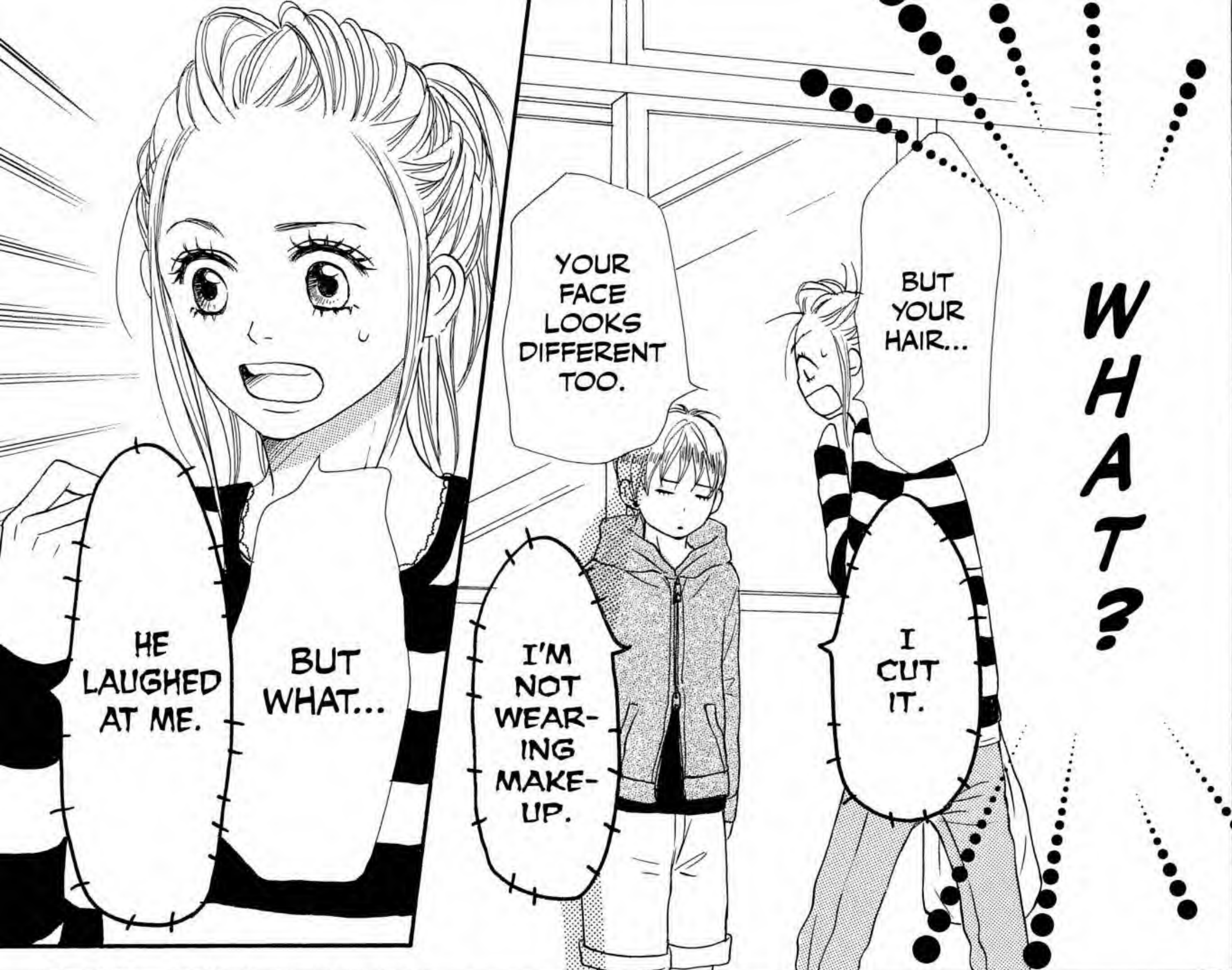
HUH?

YEAH...
RIGHT
OVER
THERE.

IS
SHE
HERE?

YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR
SEIKO?





HE
LAUGHED
AT ME.

BUT
WHAT...

YOUR
FACE
LOOKS
DIFFERENT
TOO.

BUT
YOUR
HAIR...

W
H
A
T
?

I'M
NOT
WEAR-
ING
MAKE-
UP.

I
CUT
IT.



THAT
HARUKA
!!

Idiot.

HYUK
HYUK
HYUK
THAT'S
AWESOME
!!

YOUR
LOOKS
DON'T
MATCH
YOUR
VOICE!!

HARUKA
SENPAI
LAUGHED.



YOU
THINK
A GUY
WOULD
WANT
**BAKED
GOODS**
FROM
SOMEONE
WHO
LOOKS
LIKE ME?



LET'S
BAKE IT.
YOU CAN
CONFESS
YOUR LOVE
TOMORROW.

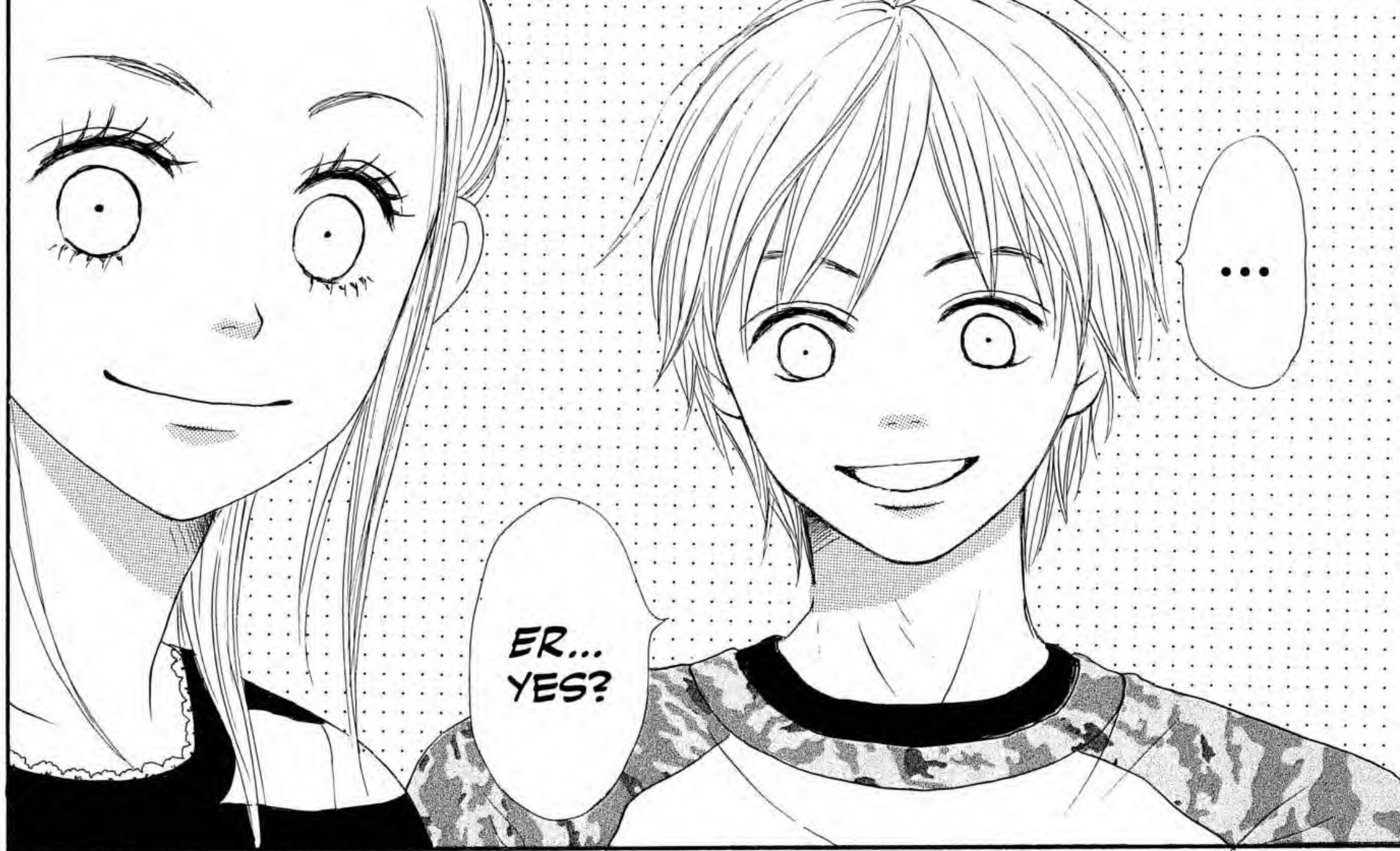
...

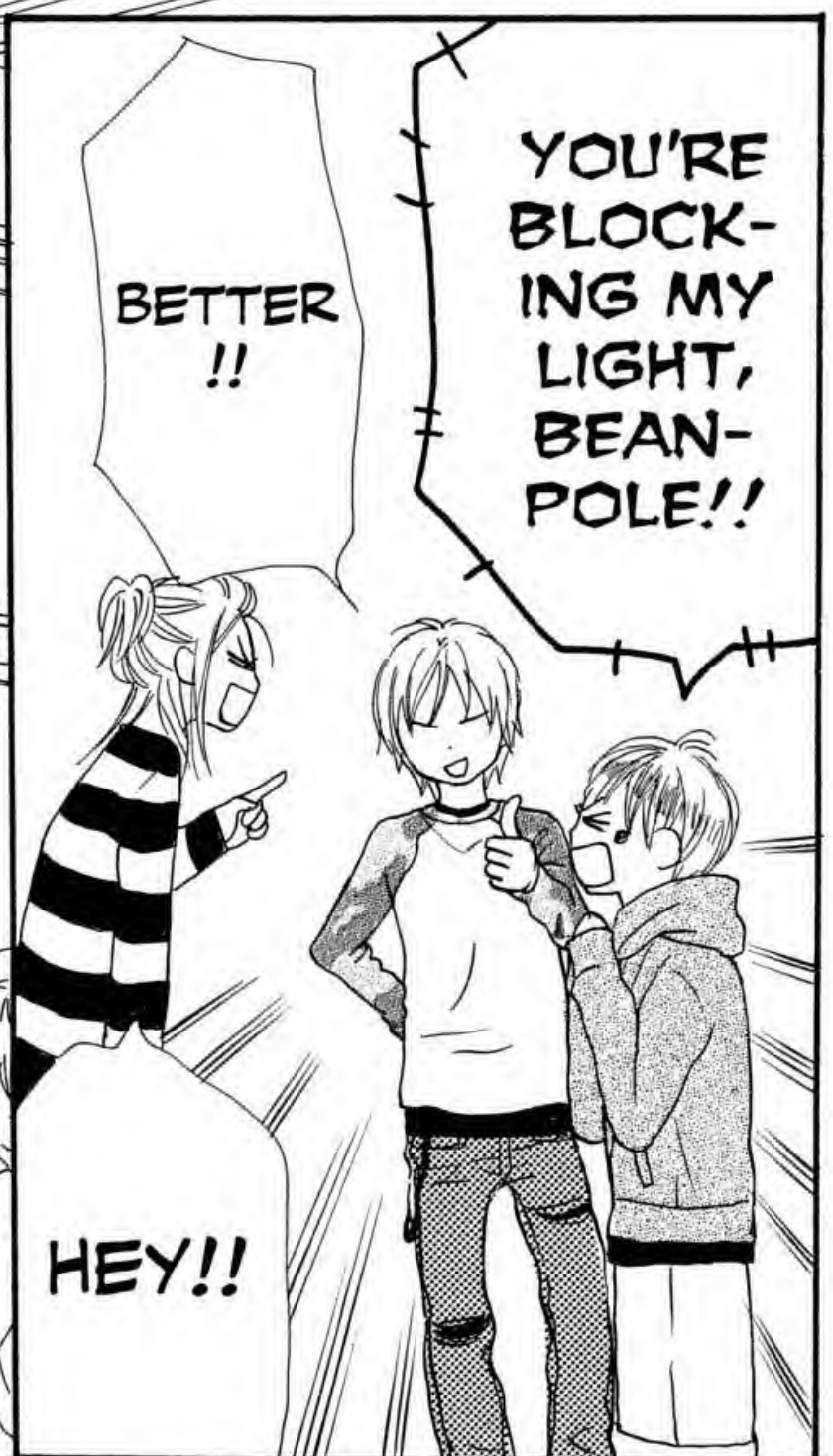
DON'T
LET THAT
DORK
BOTHER
YOU!

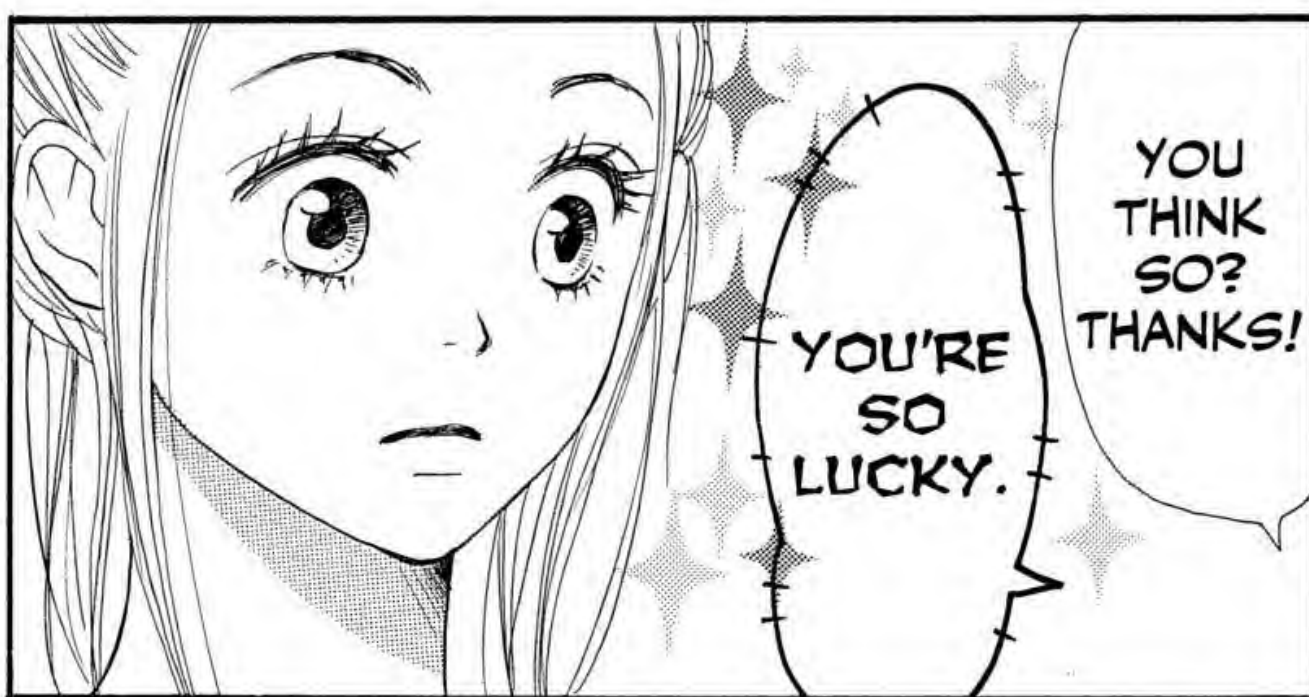
LOOK,
I BOUGHT
THE
INGREDIENTS
FOR THE
CAKE.













SHE WAS
ON A TOTAL
SHOPPING
SPREE.
SHE WAS
GETTING
READY TO
MEET THIS
CUTE GUY.

GUESS SHE
WANTED TO
LOOK HER
VERY BEST.



NO,
WE JUST
RAN INTO
EACH
OTHER.

YOU WENT
SHOPPING
TOGETHER?

DAK

**W
A
A
A
H
!!**



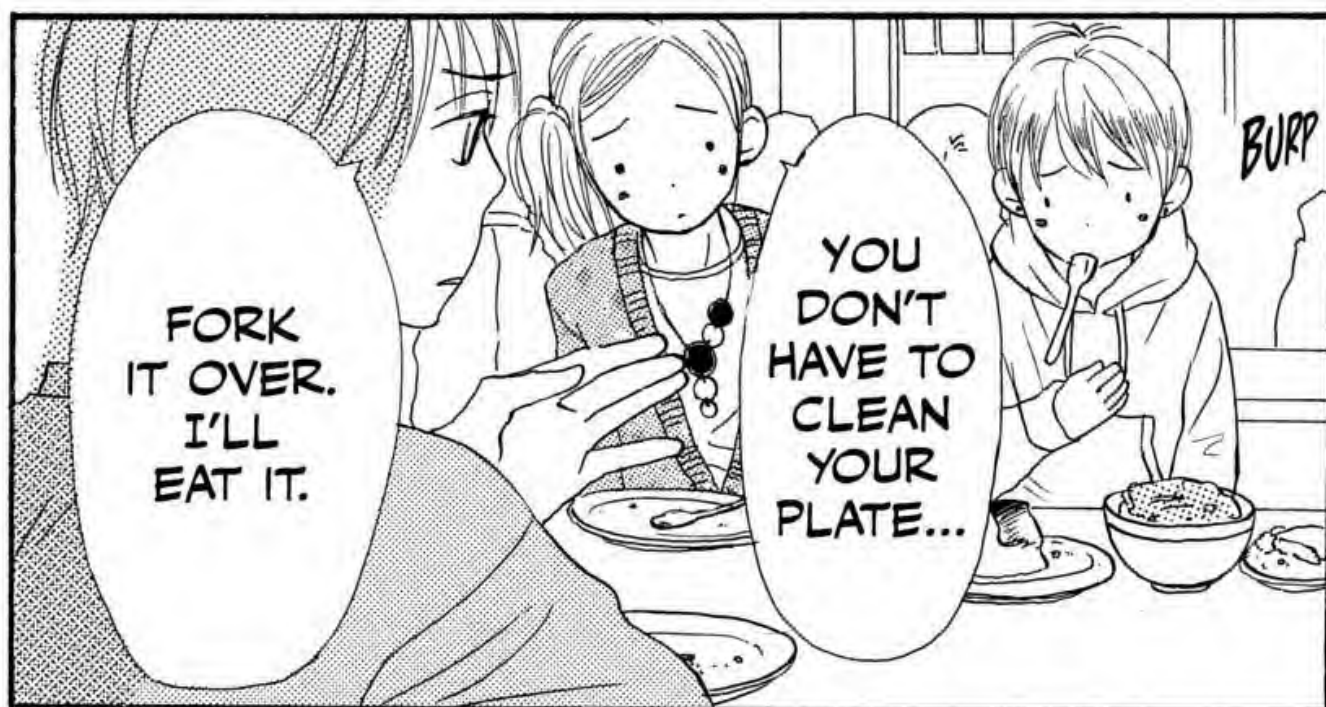
SEIKO-
CHAN?

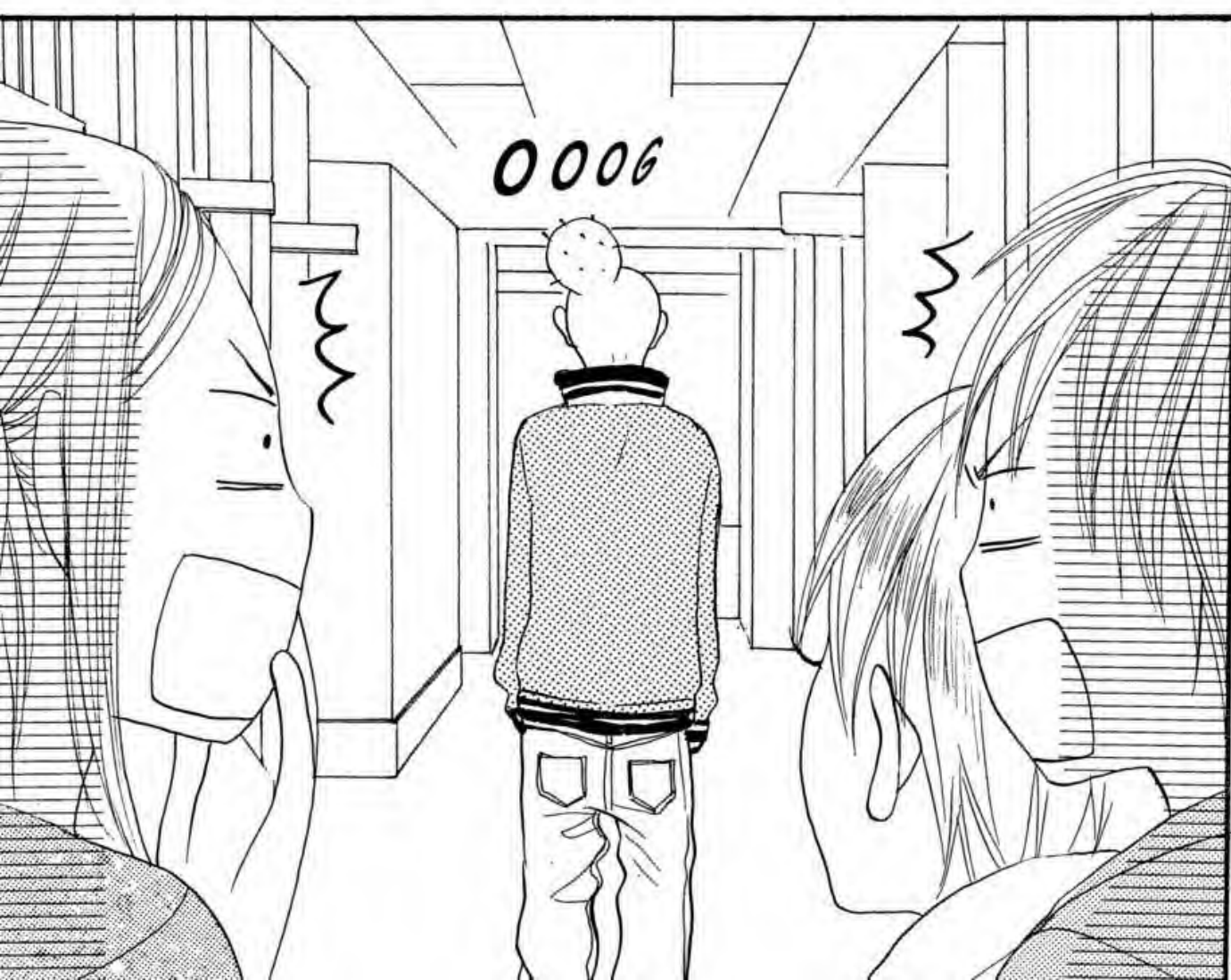


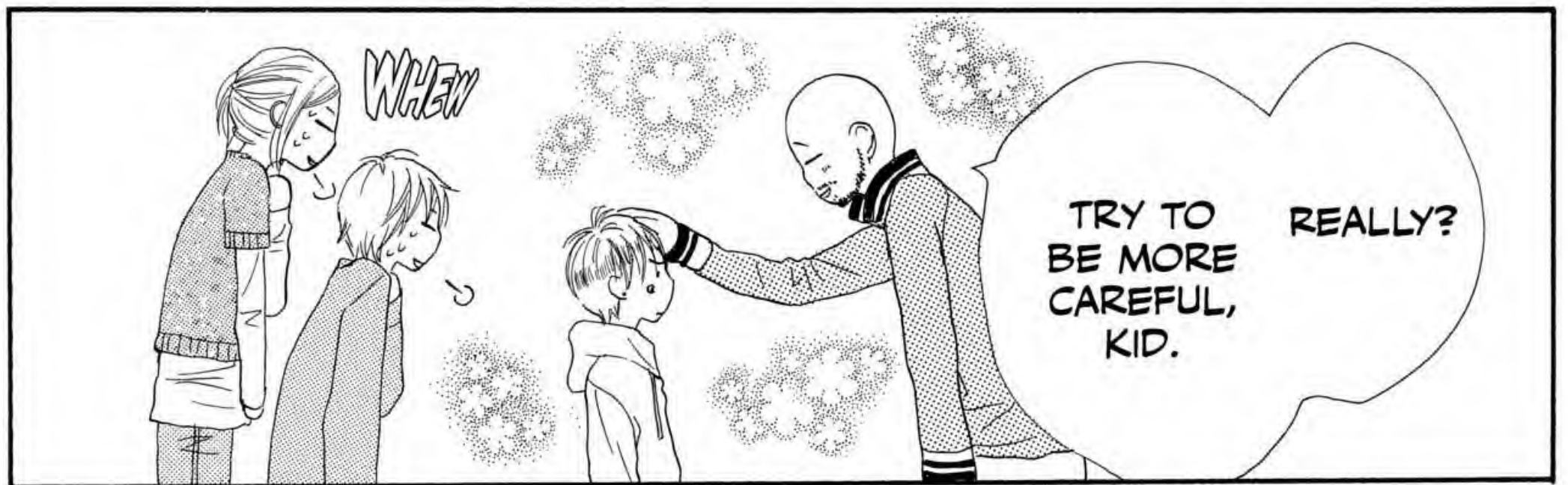
THIS IS
REALLY
HARD
FOR YOU,
ISN'T IT?

SEIKO-
CHAN...

YOU
WANT TO
DRESS
UP IN
PRETTY
CLOTHES.





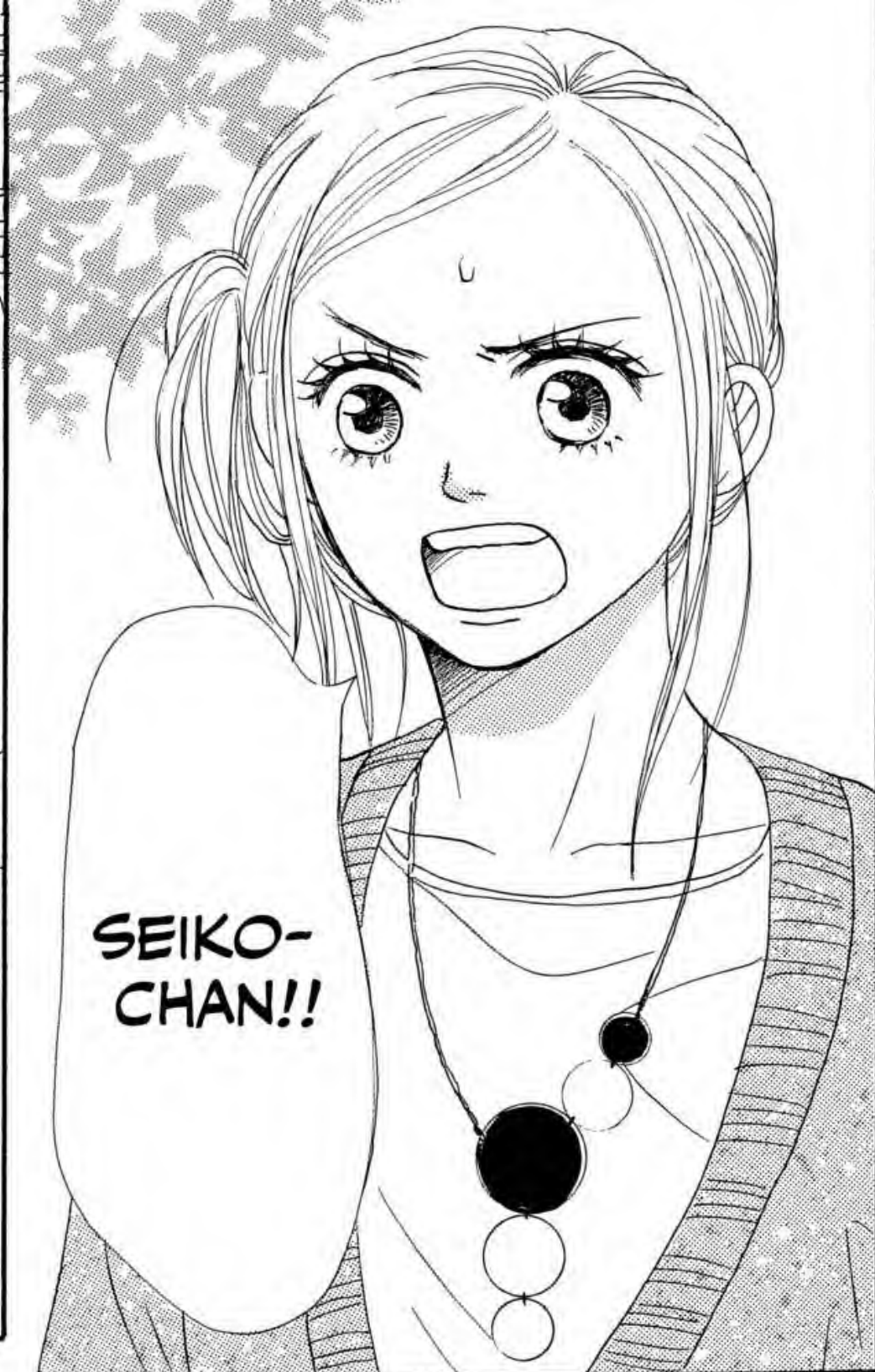




I
WANNA
BE A
DANGER-
OUS
MAN.

WHAT
IF THAT
HAD
BEEN A
REAL
THUG?

THAT WAS
DANGER-
OUS!!



SEIKO-
CHAN!!



WHAT PART
OF YOU IS
"BADASS"?

I KNOW YOU
WANT TO BE
A BADASS
SUPER-STUD
LIKE ME, BUT
DON'T TAKE
IT SO FAR.

LISTEN...

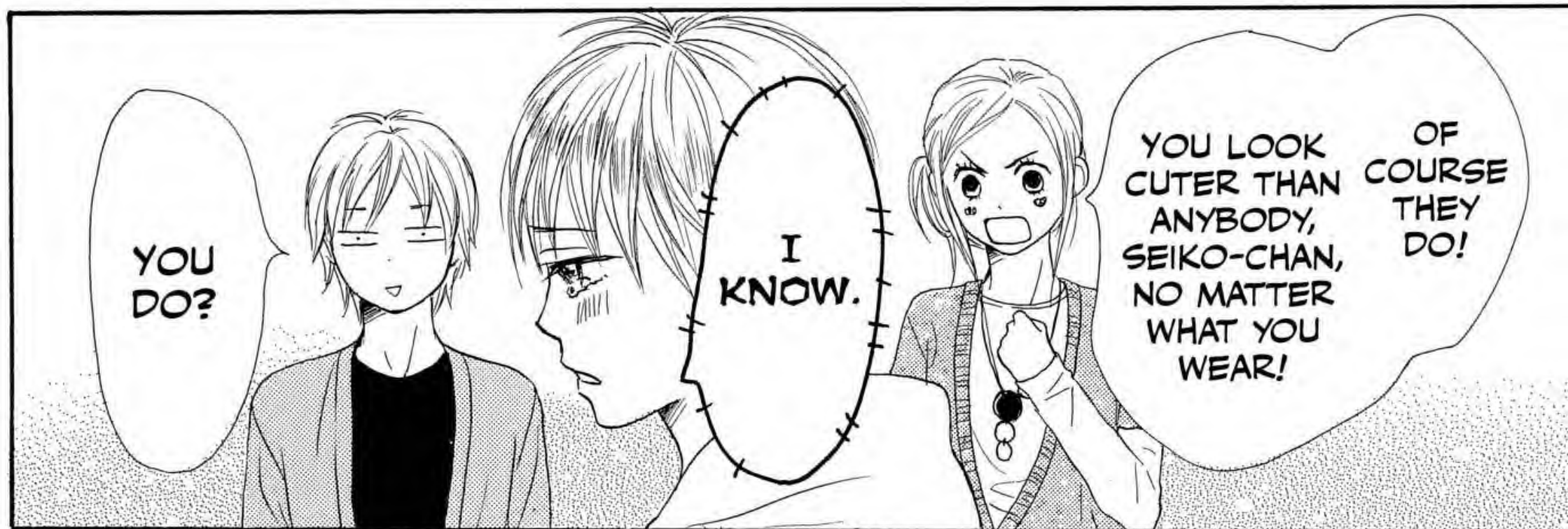


...
I'M NOT
FORCING
MYSELF.



HE'S
RIGHT.
DON'T
FORCE
YOUR-
SELF!

IT
HAS TO
COME
NATURALLY.





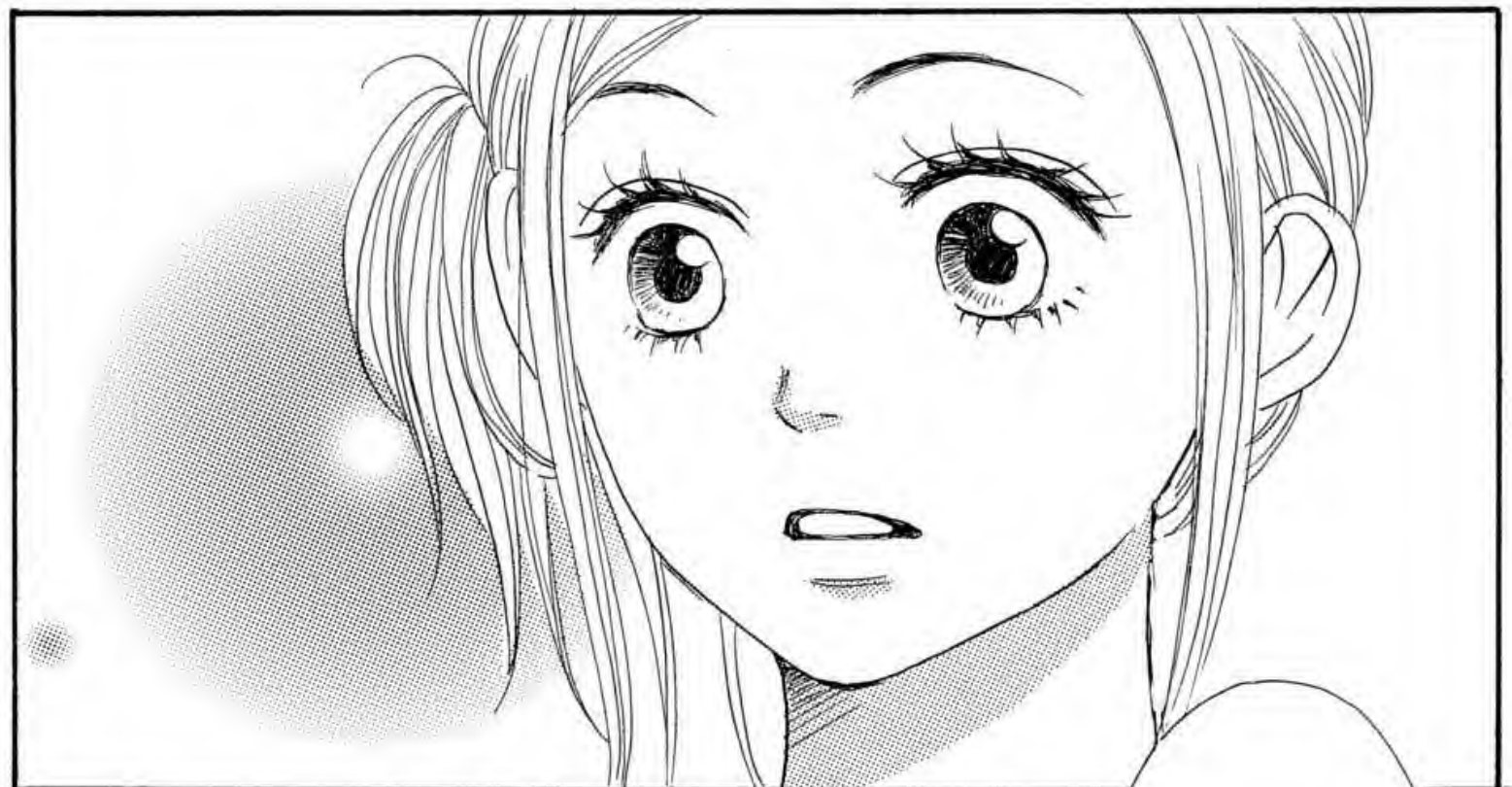
Hi! Nakahara here.
It's been a while.
How are you?

We're up to
volume 15. Wow.

I actually just
finished drawing
the very last
chapter of
Love♥Com for
the magazine.
But since I have
this graphic novel
collection to work
on, I don't feel like
it's ended at all.

And even after
this book is out,
there are two
volumes left.
I wonder when I'll
finally get to think,
"Wow, it's over."
What a long trip
it's been..."

I guess I'll wait and
save the nostalgia
for later.



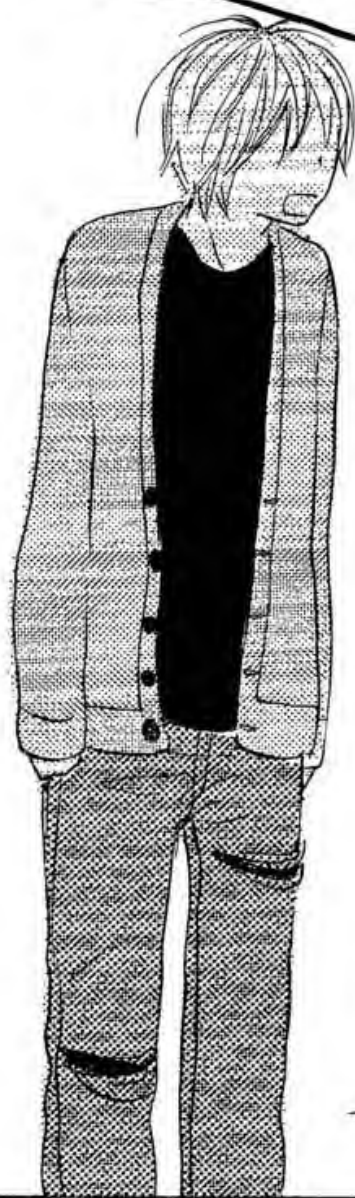




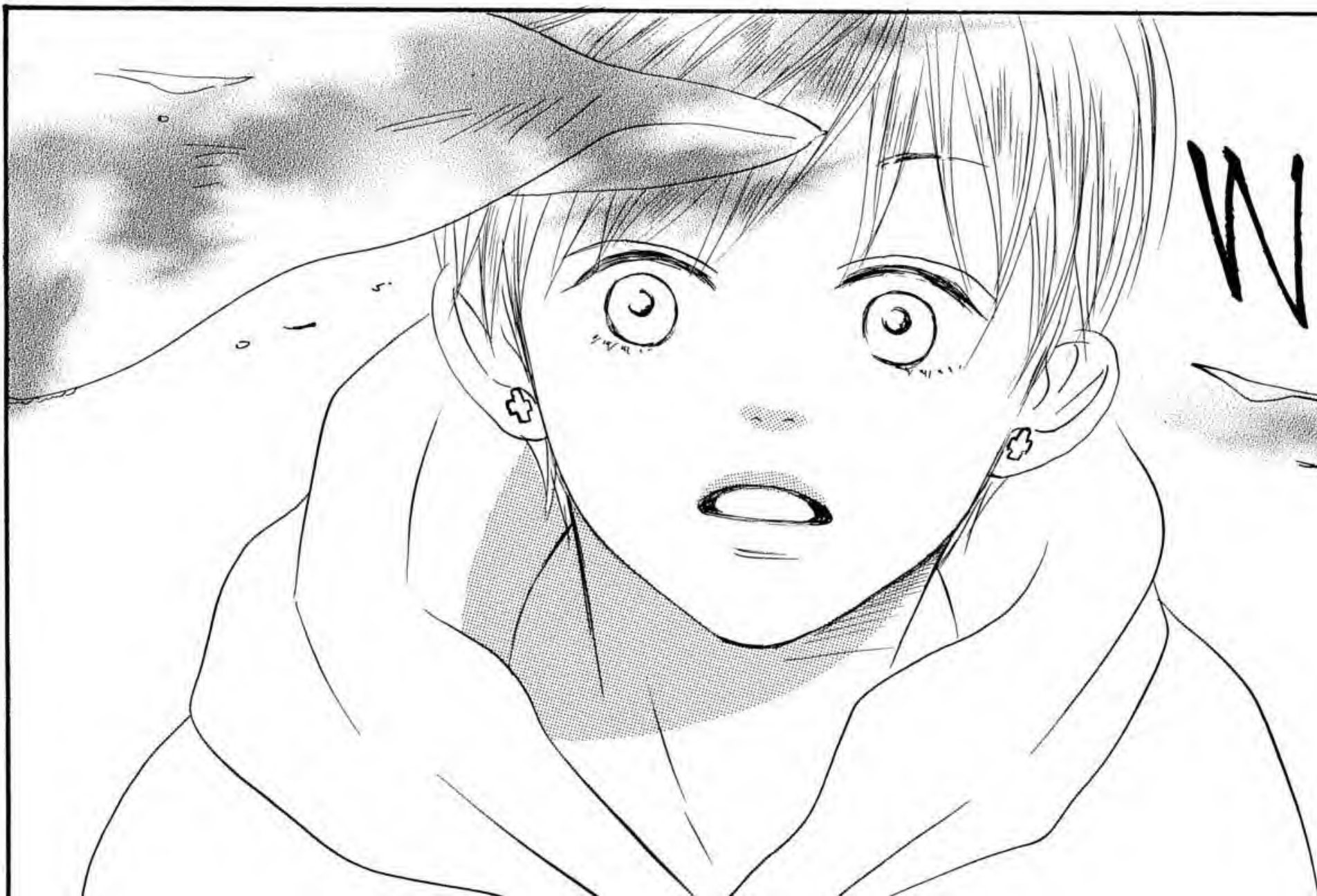
HUH?

WSH

OH NOOOO!!



SHOOOF



WSH





DID YOU
HURT
YOUR
HAND?

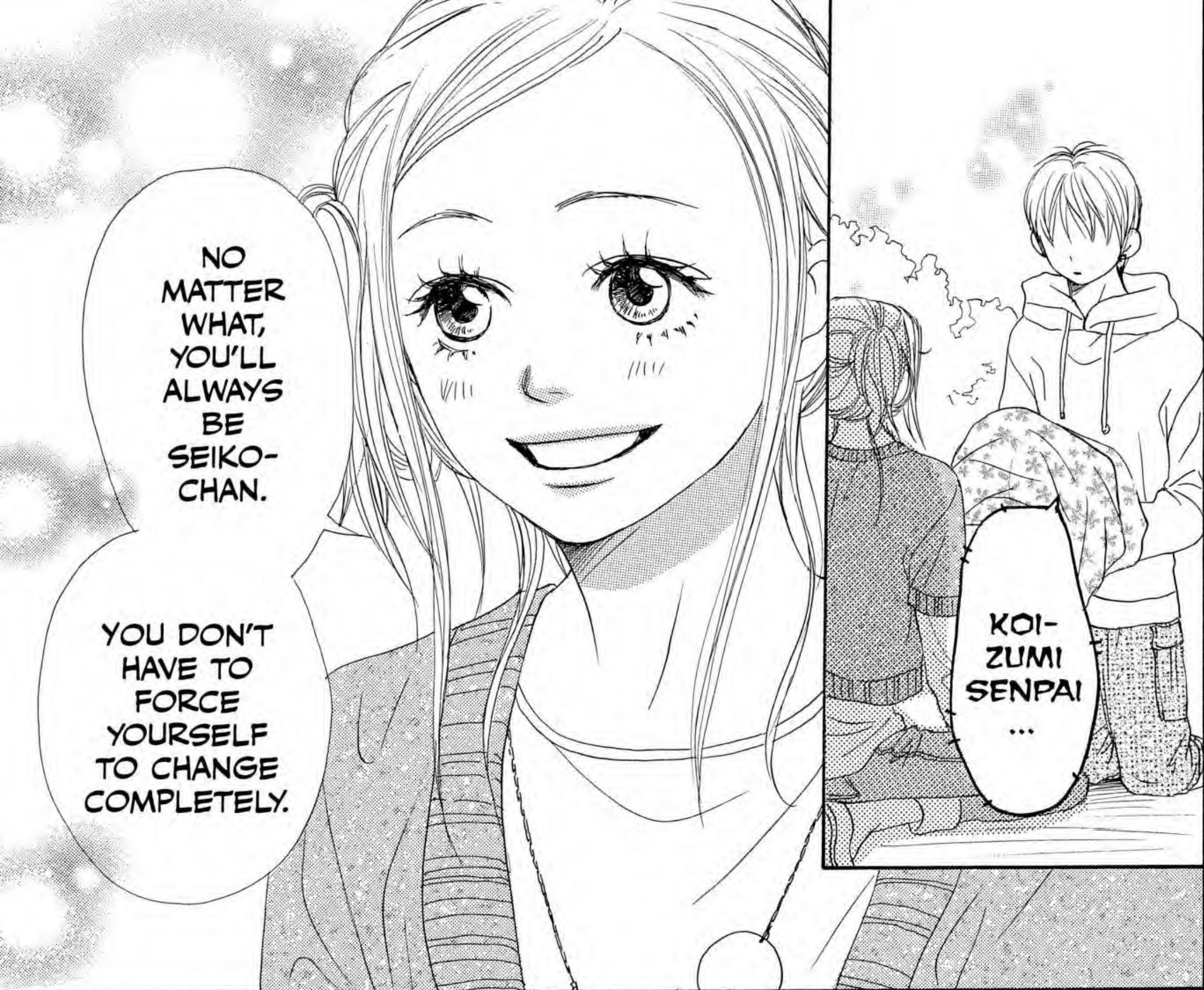


HERE.



IT'D BE A
SHAME TO
THROW
IT AWAY.

IT
SUITS
YOU.



NO
MATTER
WHAT,
YOU'LL
ALWAYS
BE
SEIKO-
CHAN.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
FORCE
YOURSELF
TO CHANGE
COMPLETELY.

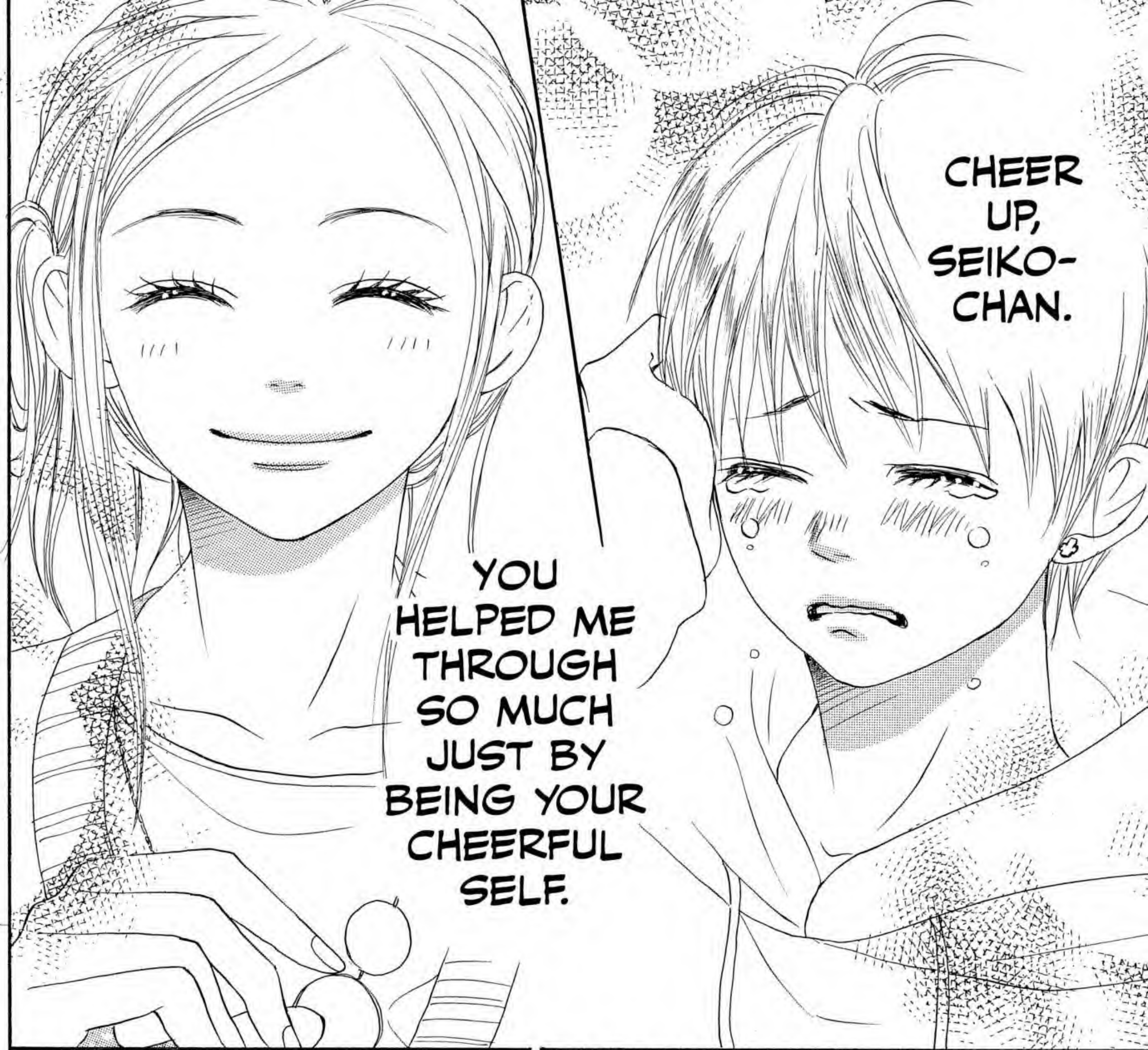
KOI-
ZUMI
SENPAI
...



SNIFF...

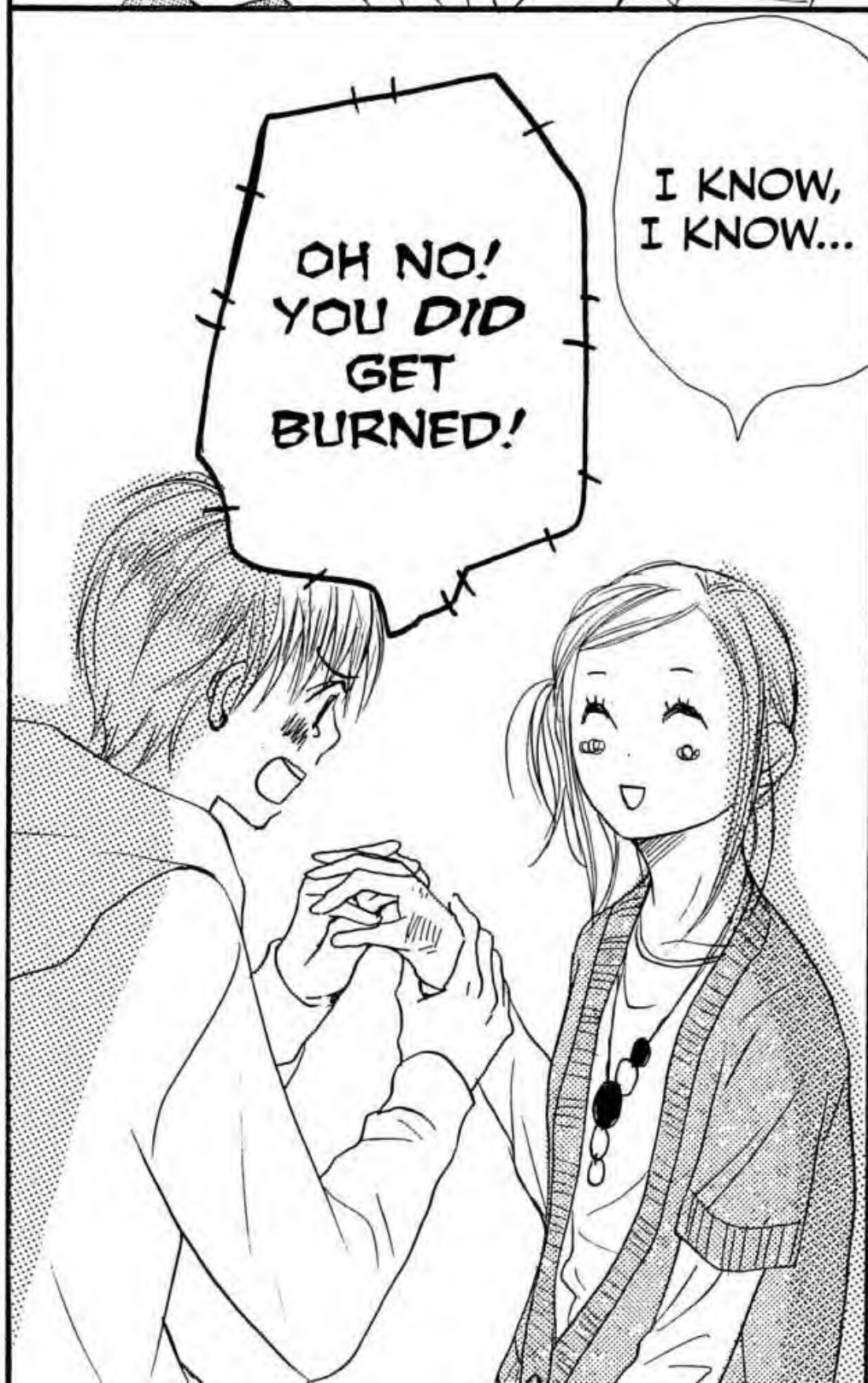


GOT
THAT?



CHEER
UP,
SEIKO-
CHAN.

YOU
HELPED ME
THROUGH
SO MUCH
JUST BY
BEING YOUR
CHEERFUL
SELF.



OH NO!
YOU DID
GET
BURNED!

I KNOW,
I KNOW...



WHAT IF
YOU'D
GOTTEN
THIRD-
DEGREE
BURNS?

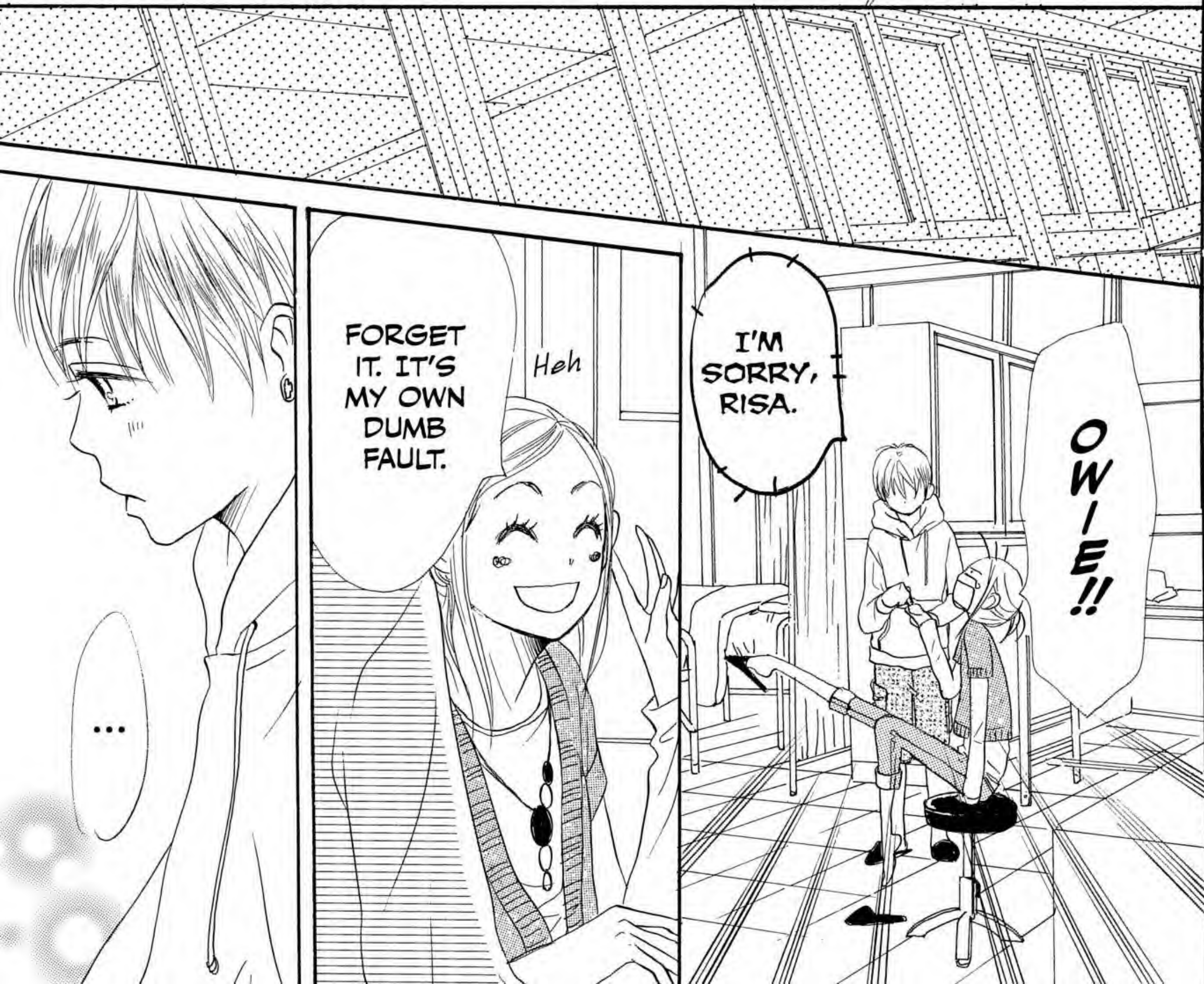
YOU
SURE
DON'T
LOOK
BEFORE
YOU
LEAP.

DON'T
GIVE
UP ALL
THE
THINGS
YOU
LOVE.

I'LL
TEND
TO IT.

GO
SEE THE
NURSE,
DUMMY.

HEY,
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

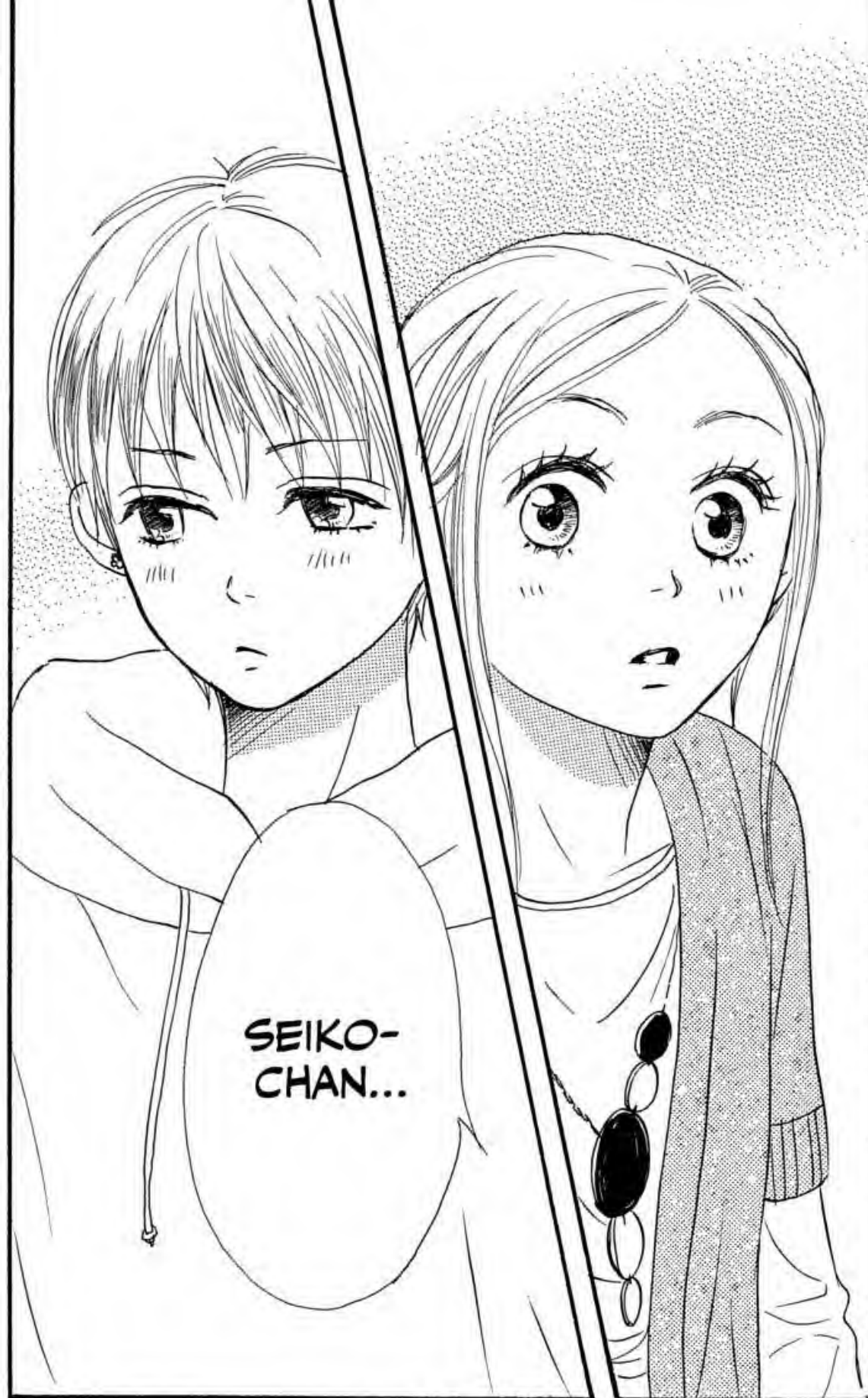


FORGET
IT. IT'S
MY OWN
DUMB
FAULT.

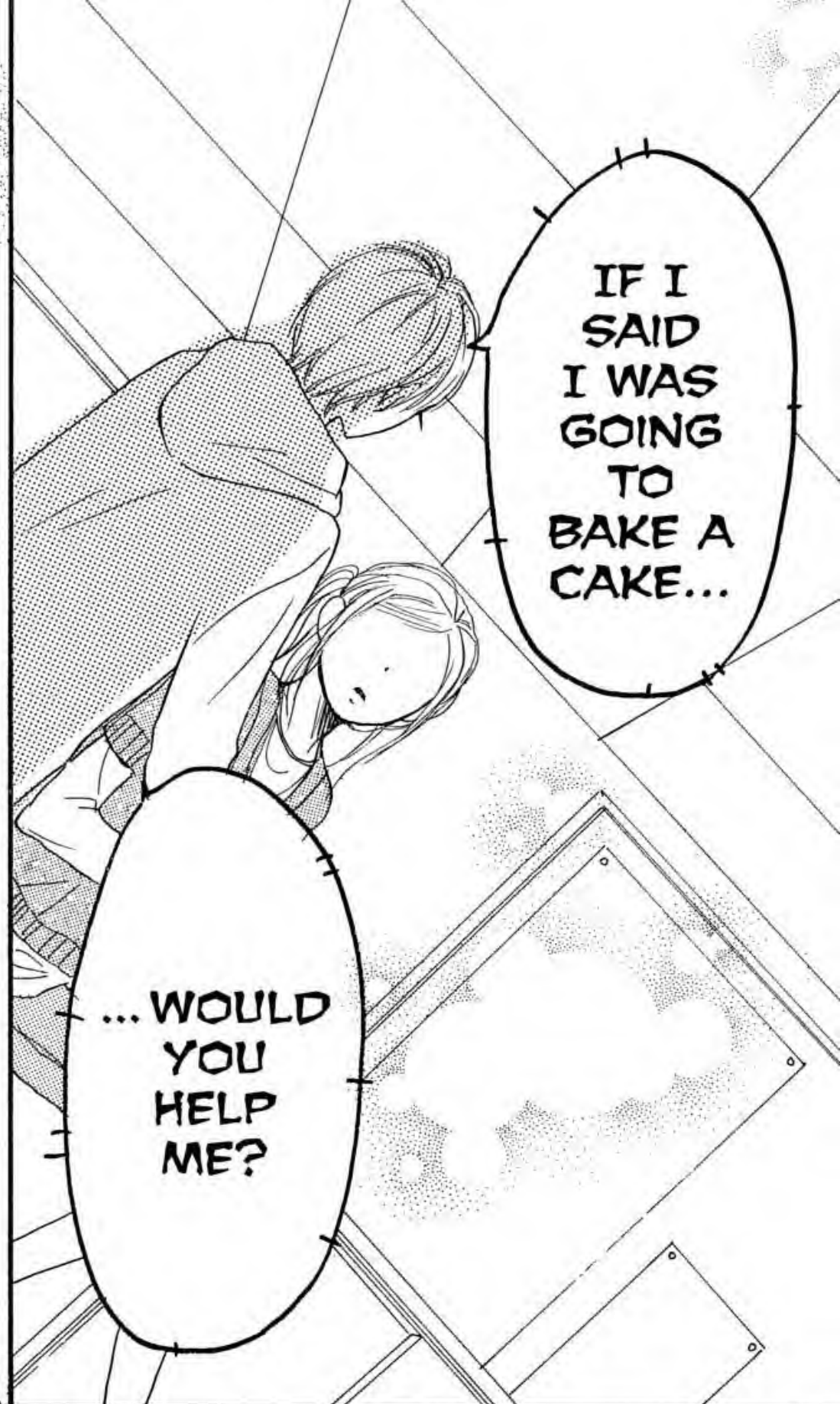
Heh

I'M
SORRY,
RISA.

OWIE!!



SEIKO-
CHAN...



...WOULD
YOU
HELP
ME?

IF I
SAID
I WAS
GOING
TO
BAKE A
CAKE...



KOI-
ZUMI
SENPAI.



YOU
BET!

HEH...





SO IT
SEEMS!

MY
VOICE IS
BACK TO
NORMAL!
♡



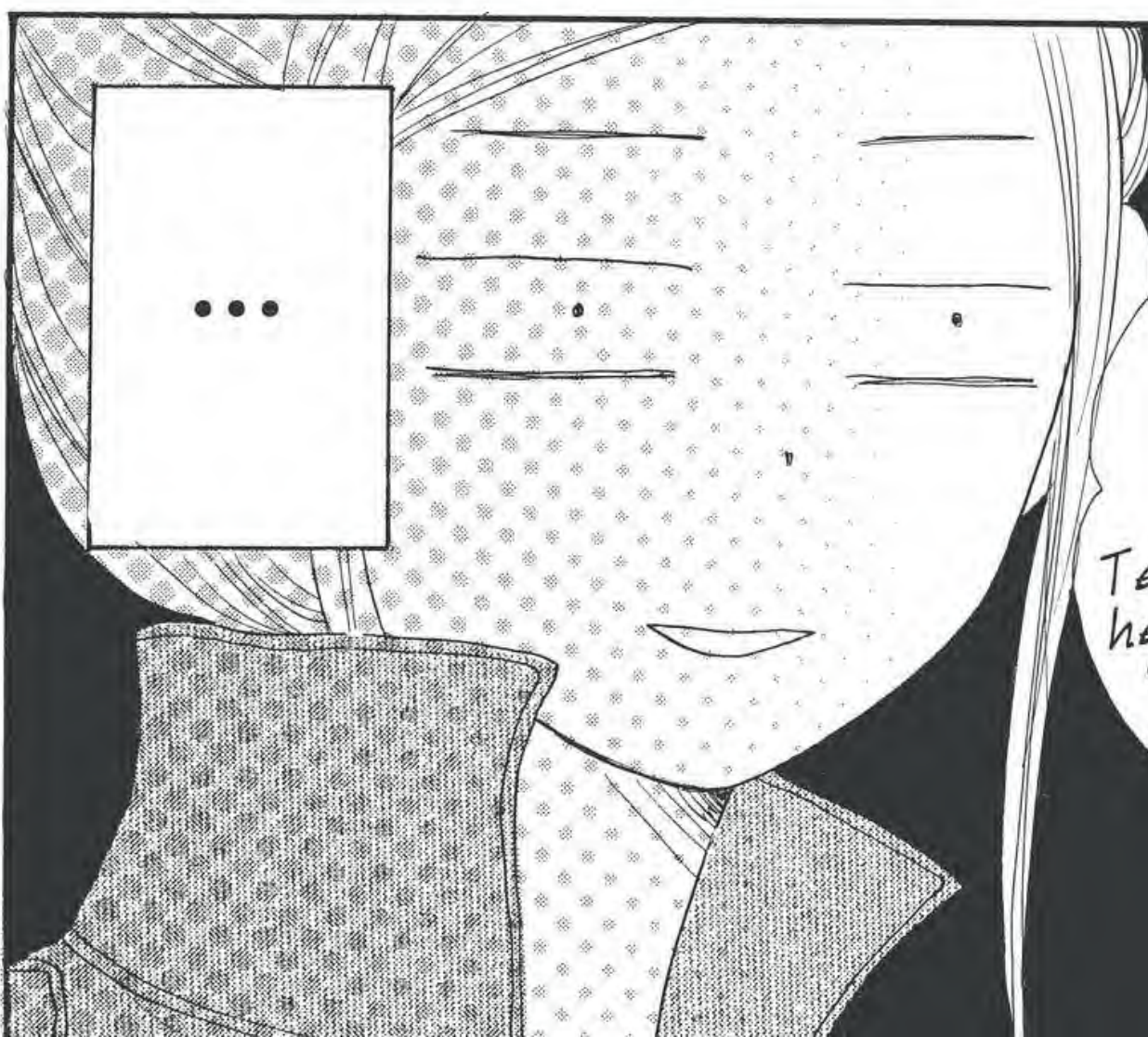
**IT WAS
JUST A
COLD?**



I GOT
EXTENSIONS,
SO MY HAIR
IS BACK TO
THE CUTE
SEIKO-CHAN
STYLE!
♡

♪ TWIRL!

YOU'RE
RIGHT...

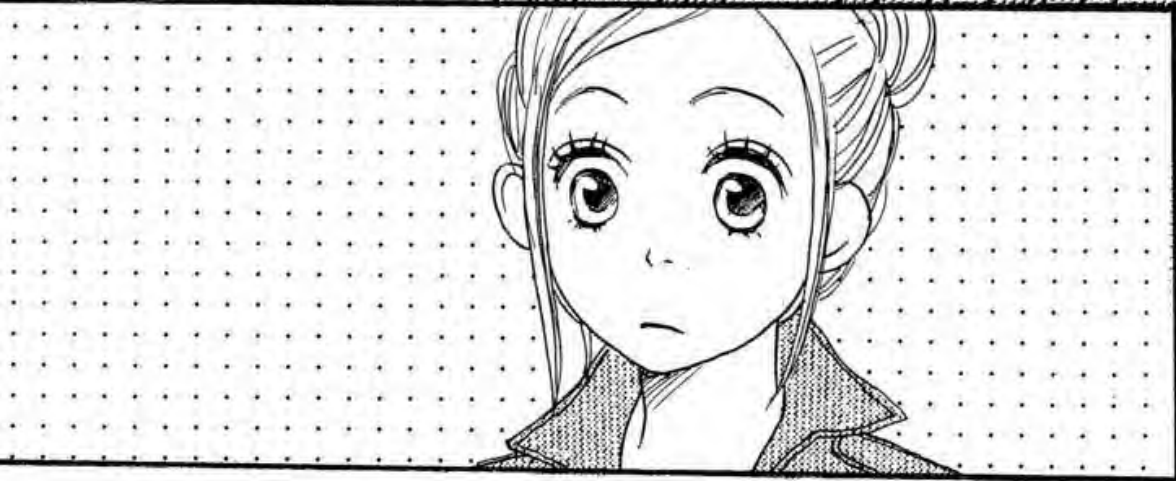


...

Tee
hee!
♡

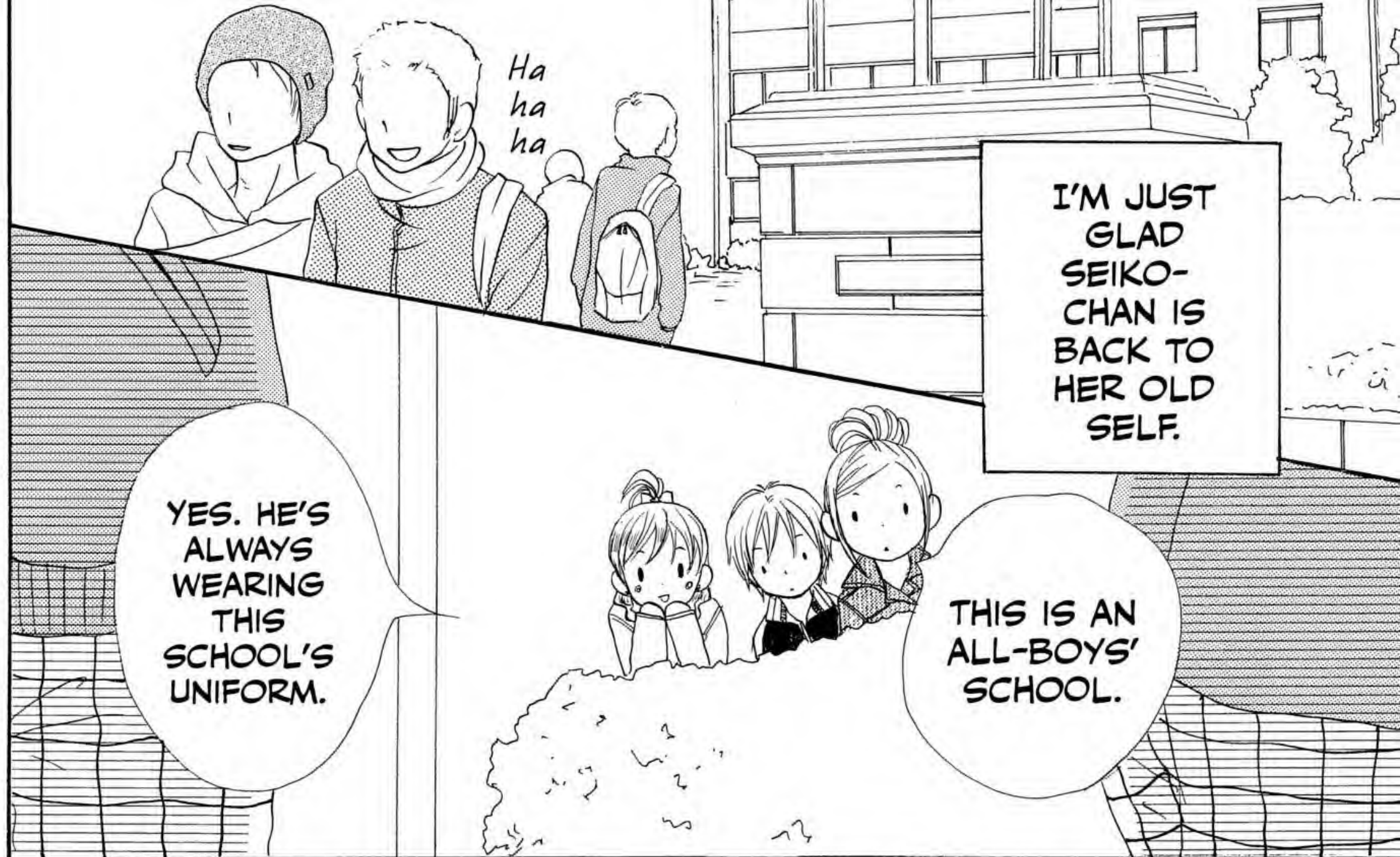
AND HE
SAID I
WAS SICK!!
ONE SHOT
AND I'M
FEELING
SO MUCH
BETTER!

I WAS
FEELING
A TAD
LETHARGIC,
SO I WENT
TO THE
DOCTOR.



WHAT
THE
HECK
...?





I'M JUST
GLAD
SEIKO-
CHAN IS
BACK TO
HER OLD
SELF.

YES. HE'S
ALWAYS
WEARING
THIS
SCHOOL'S
UNIFORM.

THIS IS AN
ALL-BOYS'
SCHOOL.

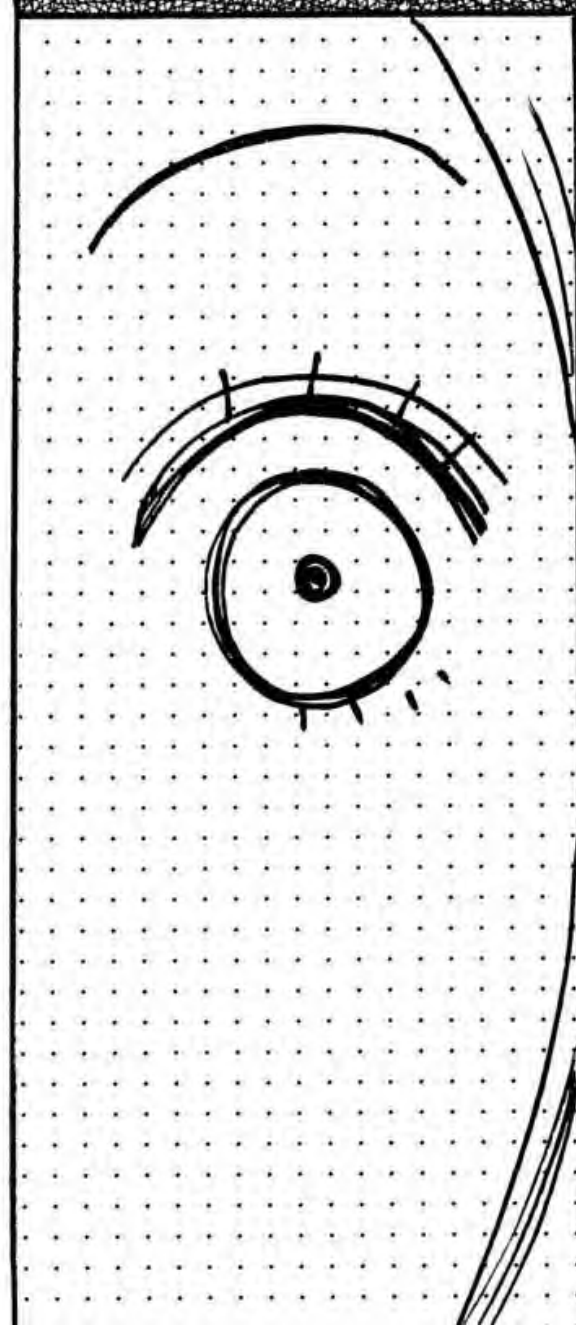


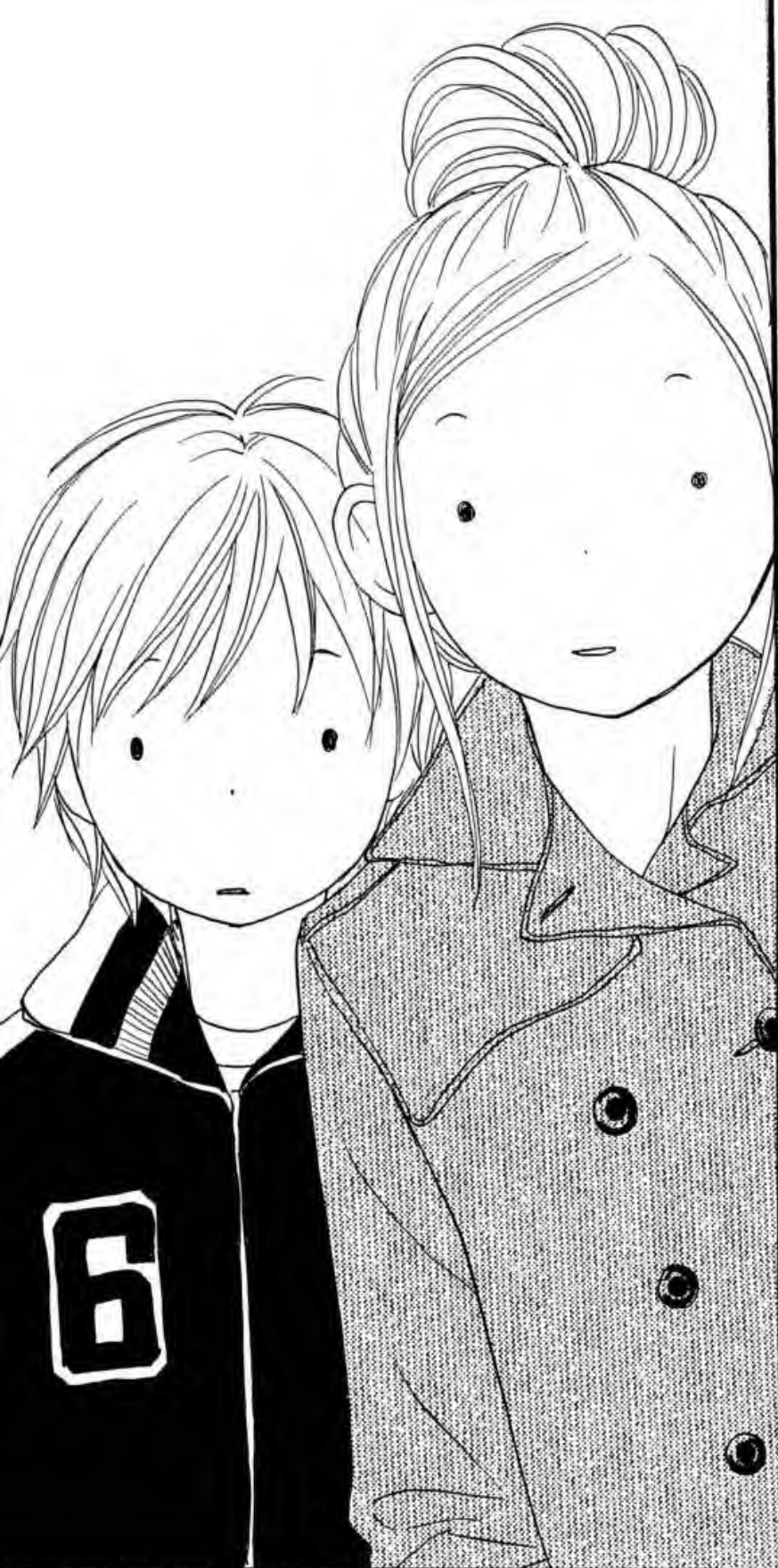
HUH?
WHERE?

I'M
OFF!!



LOOK!
THERE
HE IS!!



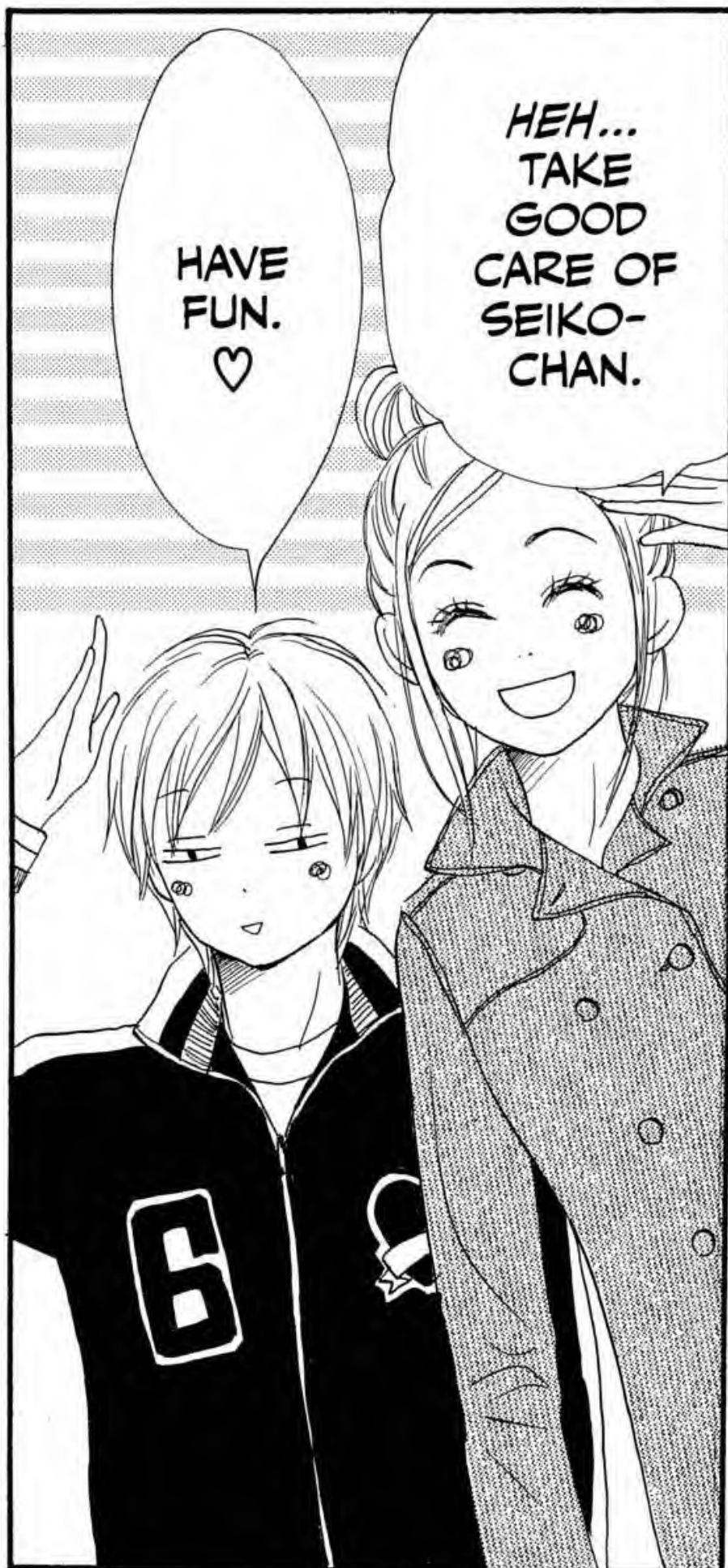




ER...

SURE...
OKAY.

PLEASE
BE MY
SPECIAL
FRIEND.
♡



HAVE
FUN.
♡

HEH...
TAKE
GOOD
CARE OF
SEIKO-
CHAN.



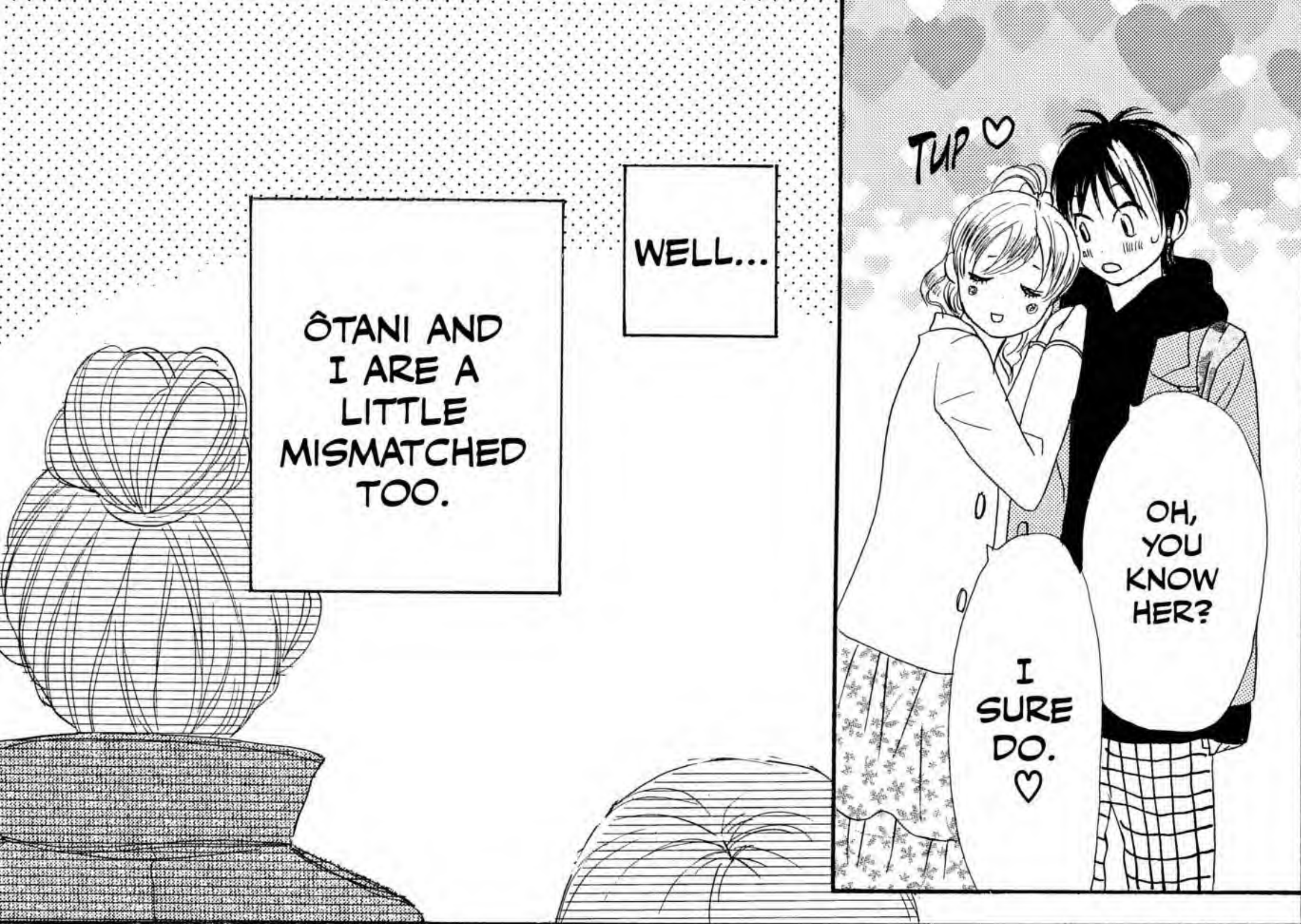
WHAT
THE...

KOIZUMI-
SAN?



HUH?

HE
SAID
YES!
♡



ÔTANI AND
I ARE A
LITTLE
MISMATCHED
TOO.

WELL...

TUP ♡

I
SURE
DO.
♡

OH,
YOU
KNOW
HER?

...THEY
CAN
SURVIVE
THROUGH
THICK
AND THIN.

IF
THEIR
HEARTS
STAY
WARM...

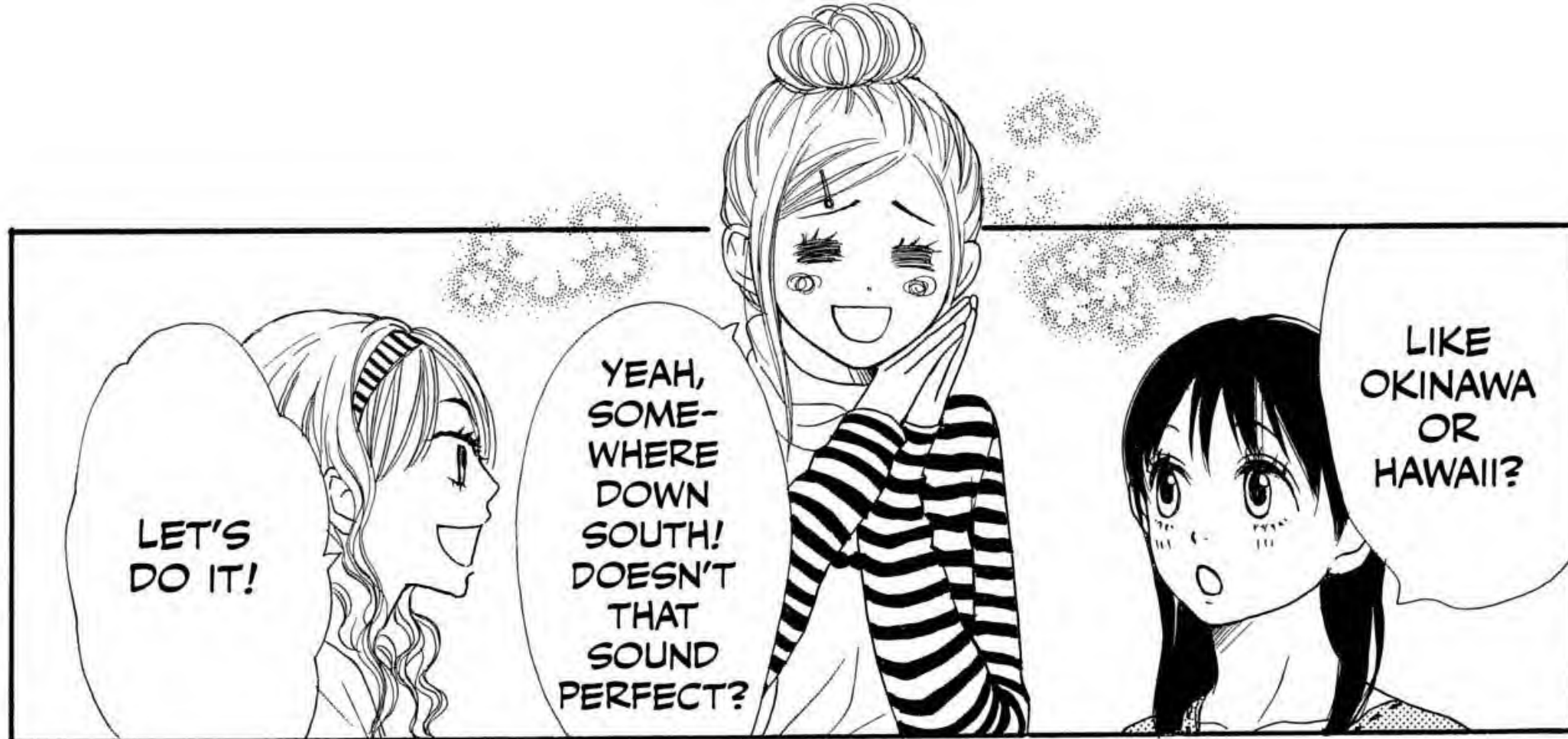
NO
KIDDING?
SURE,
I'LL EAT.

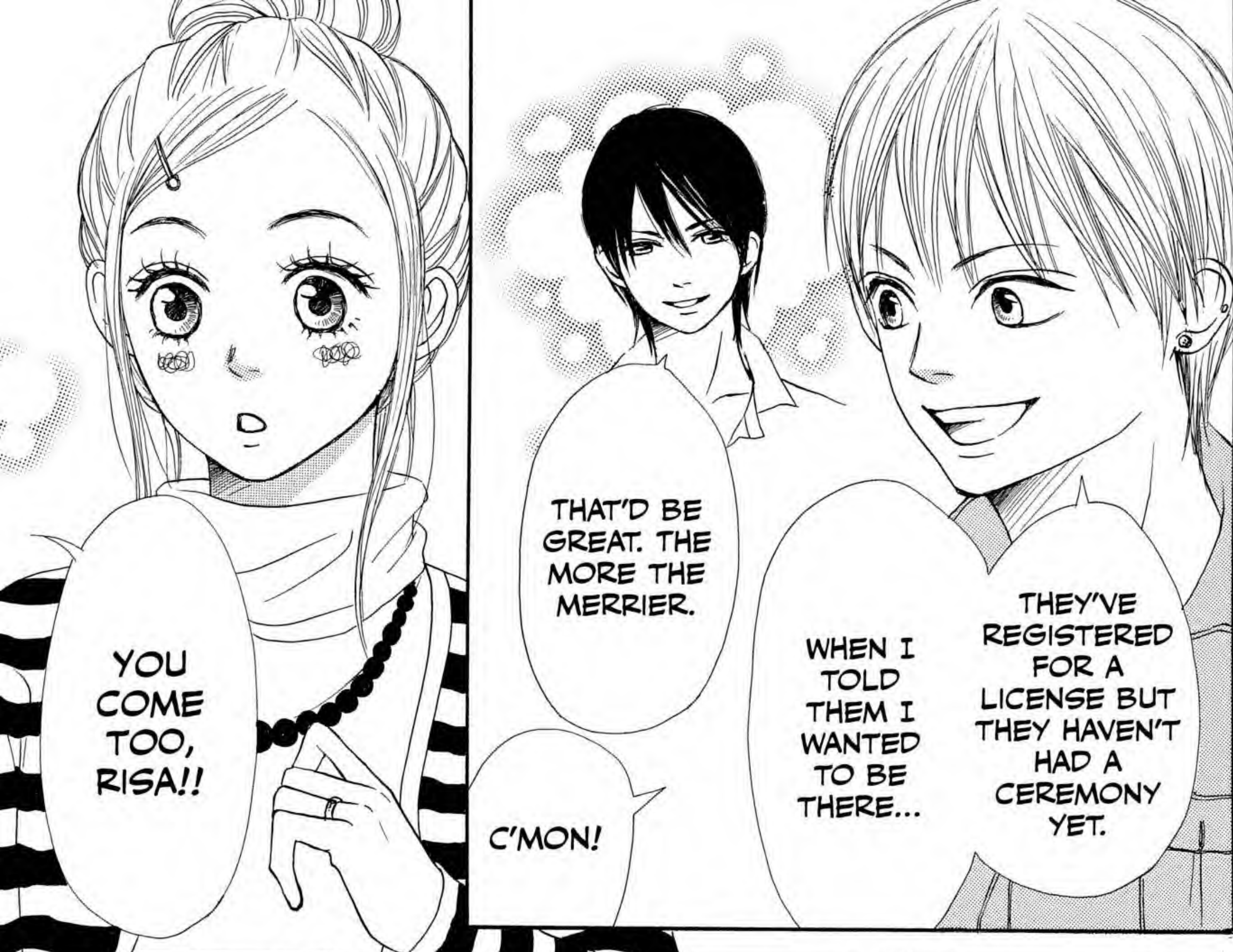
THERE'S
CAKE
FOR YOU
TOO.
WANT
SOME?





CHAPTER 57







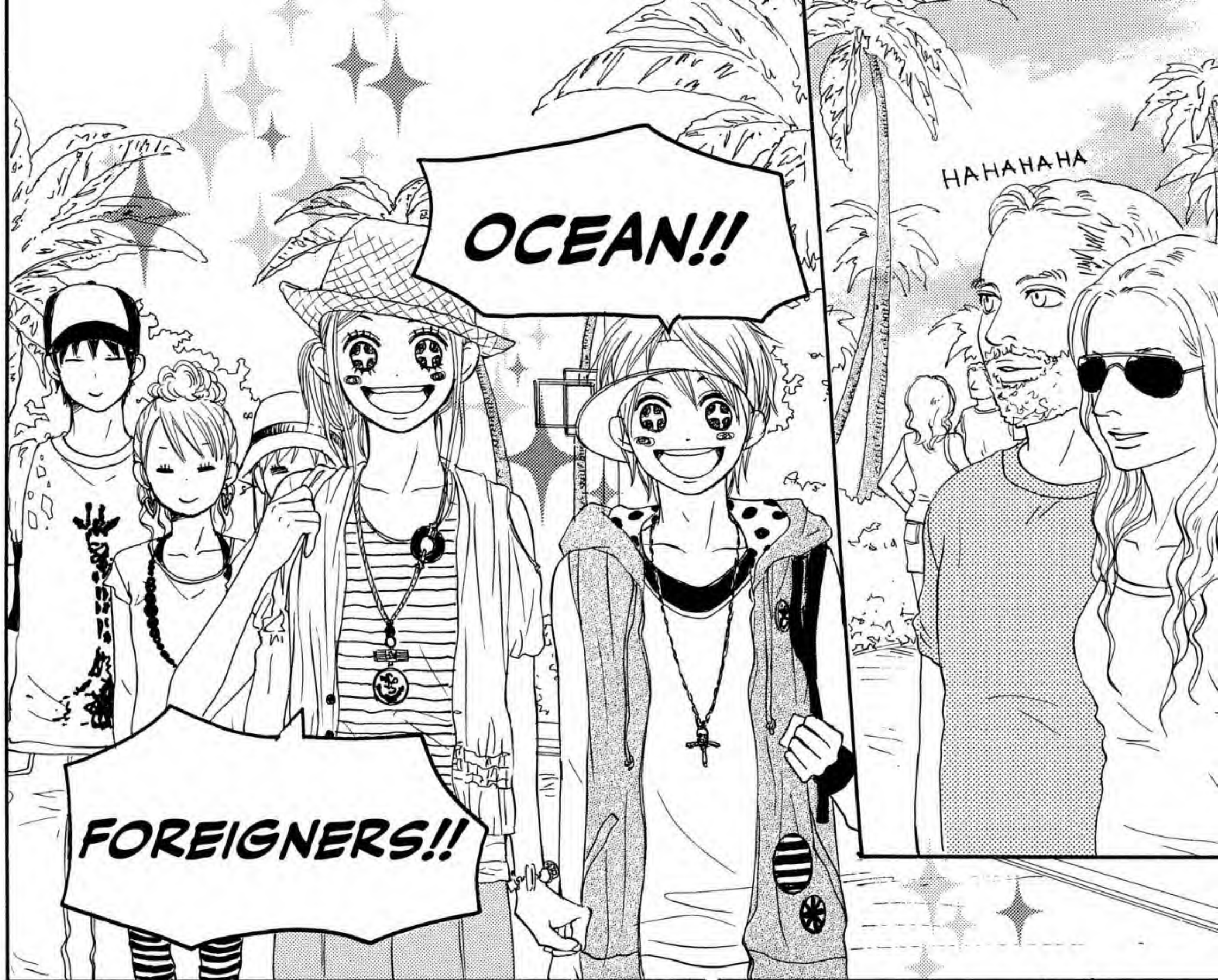


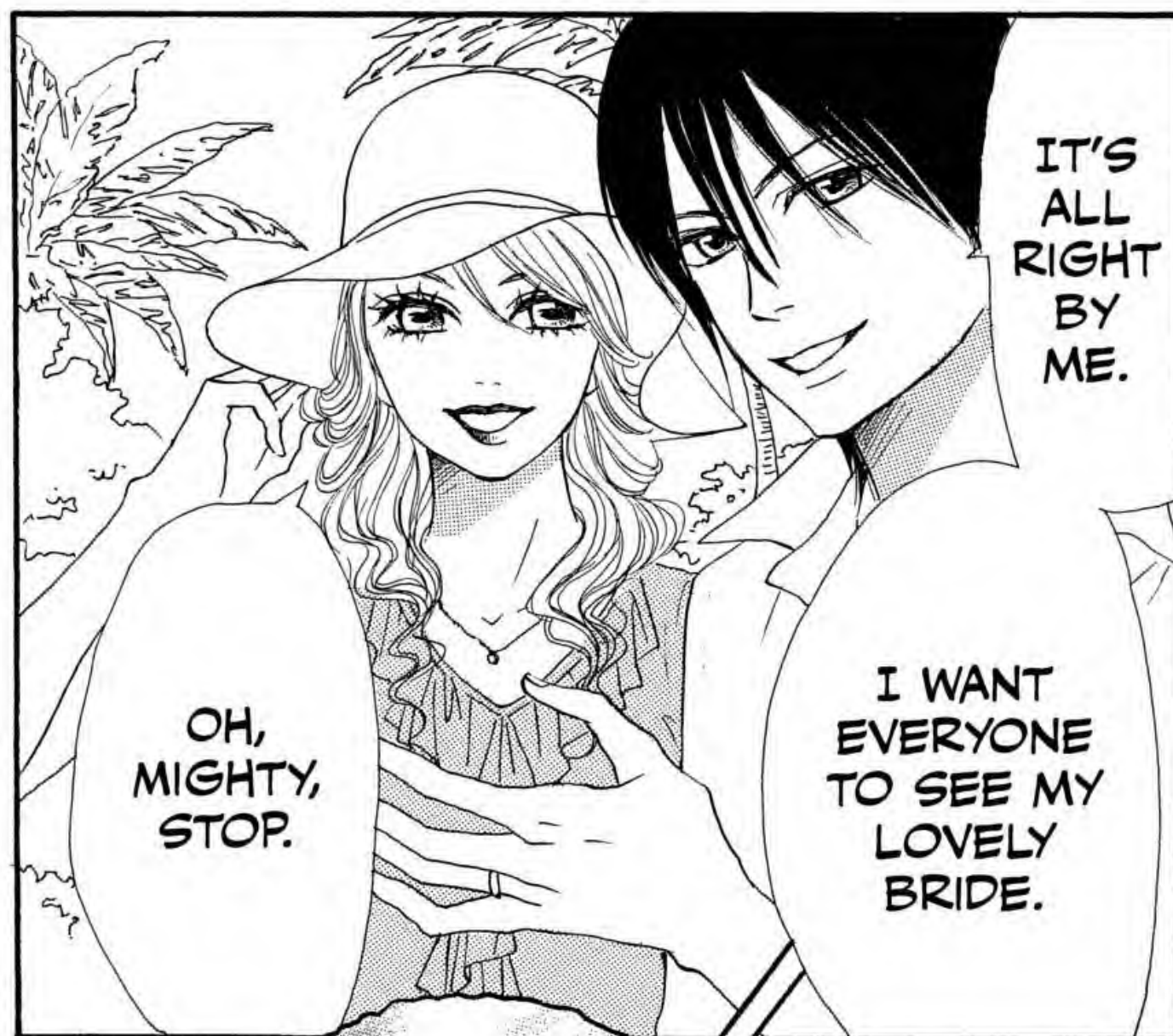
I
KNOW!

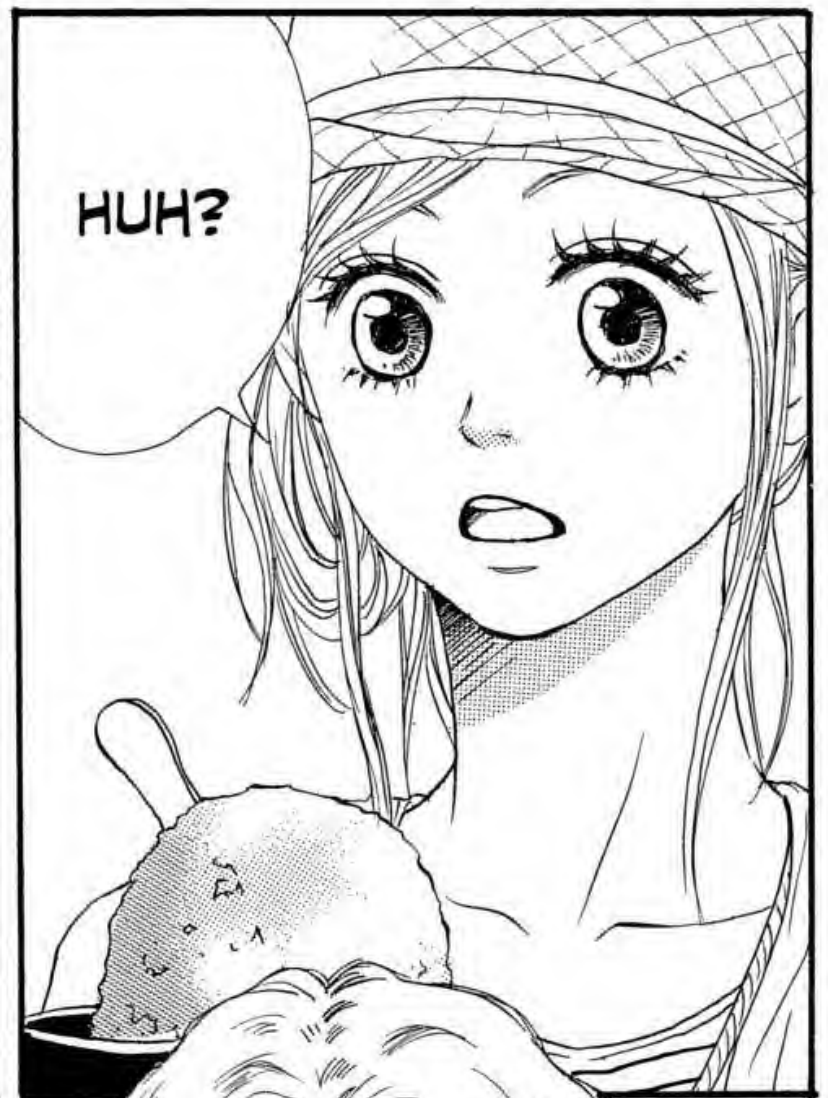
I
HAVEN'T
BEEN
ON A
VACATION
SINCE
OUR LAST
CLASS
TRIP.

**WE'RE
LEFT
WITH NO
CHOICE!!**

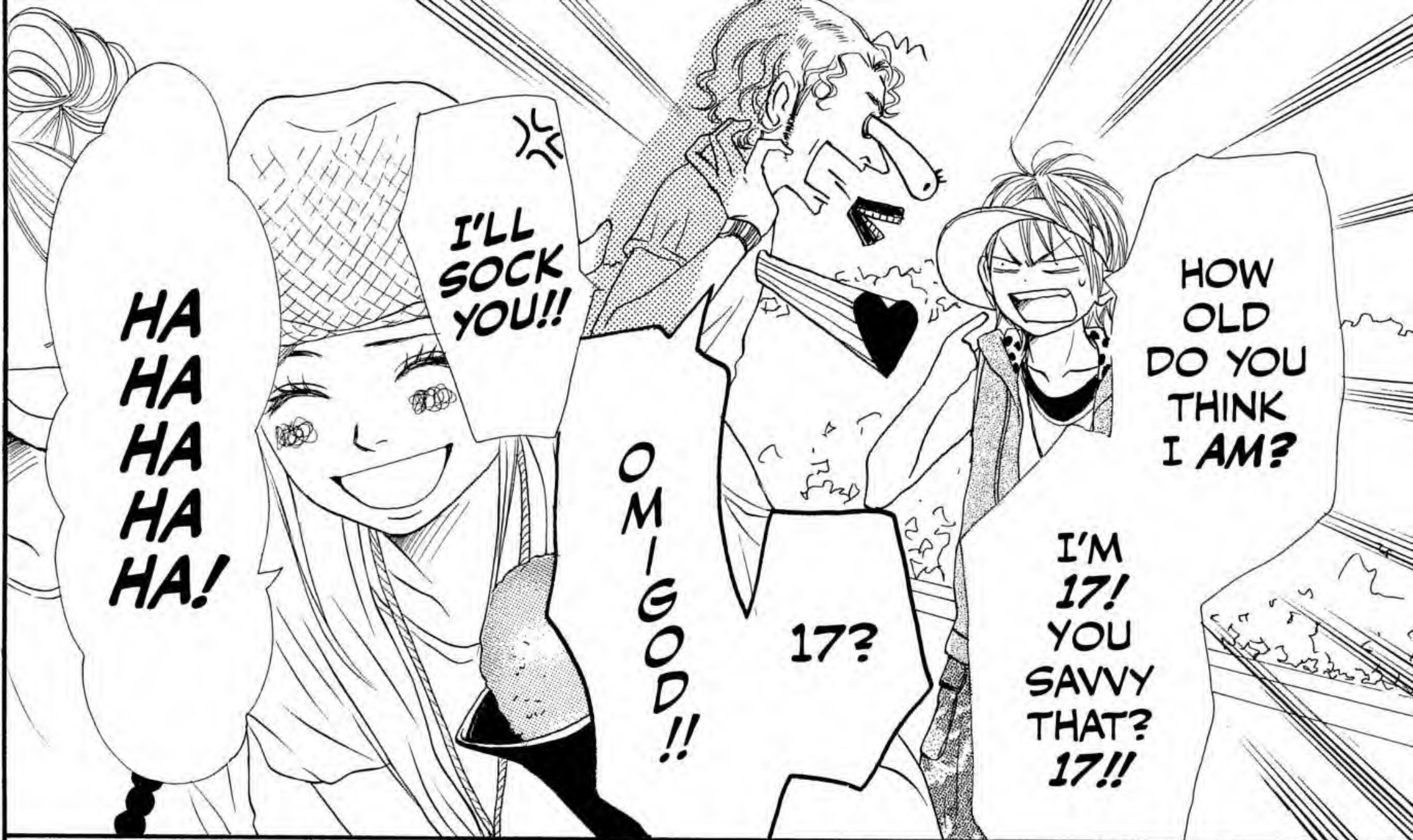


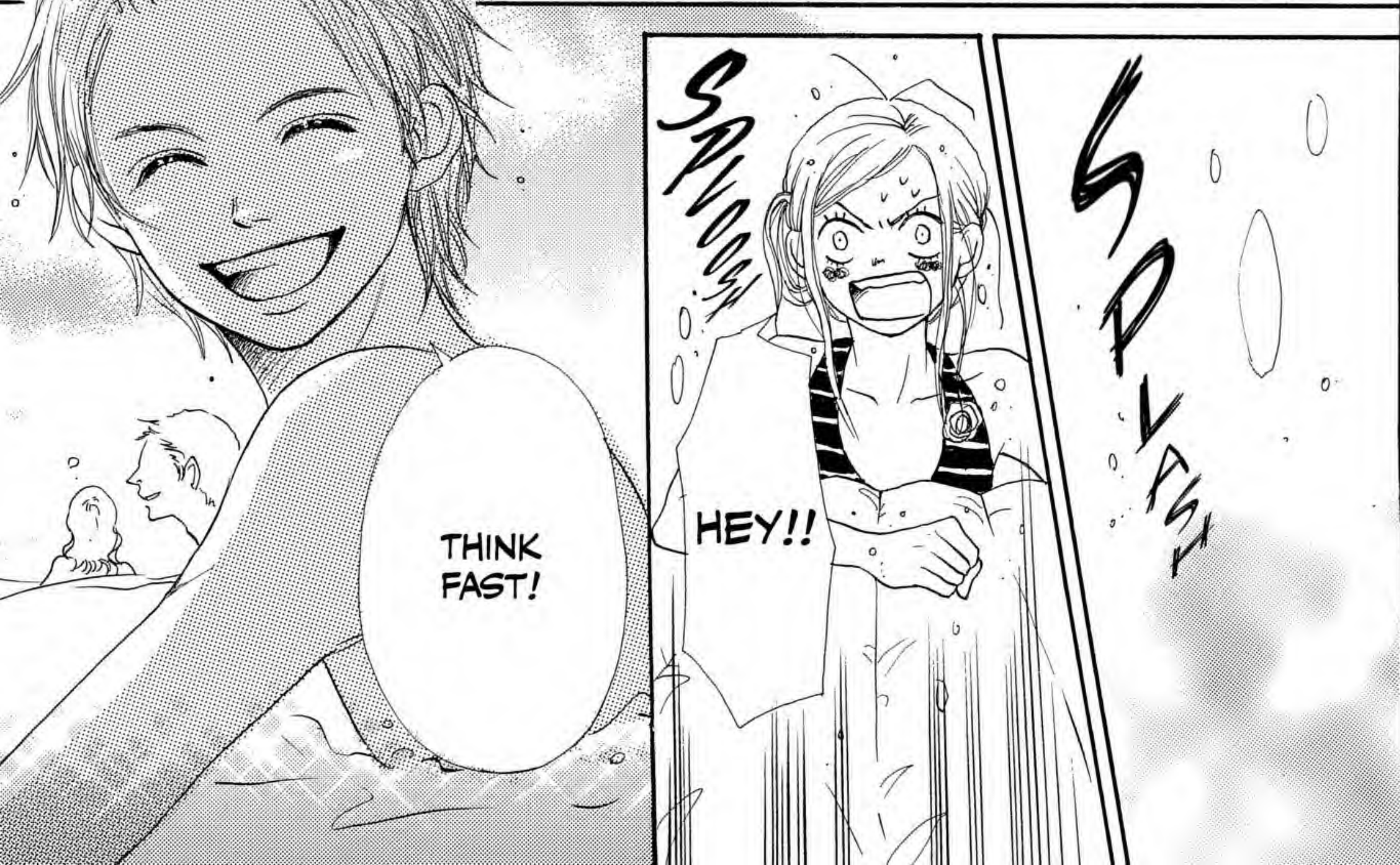
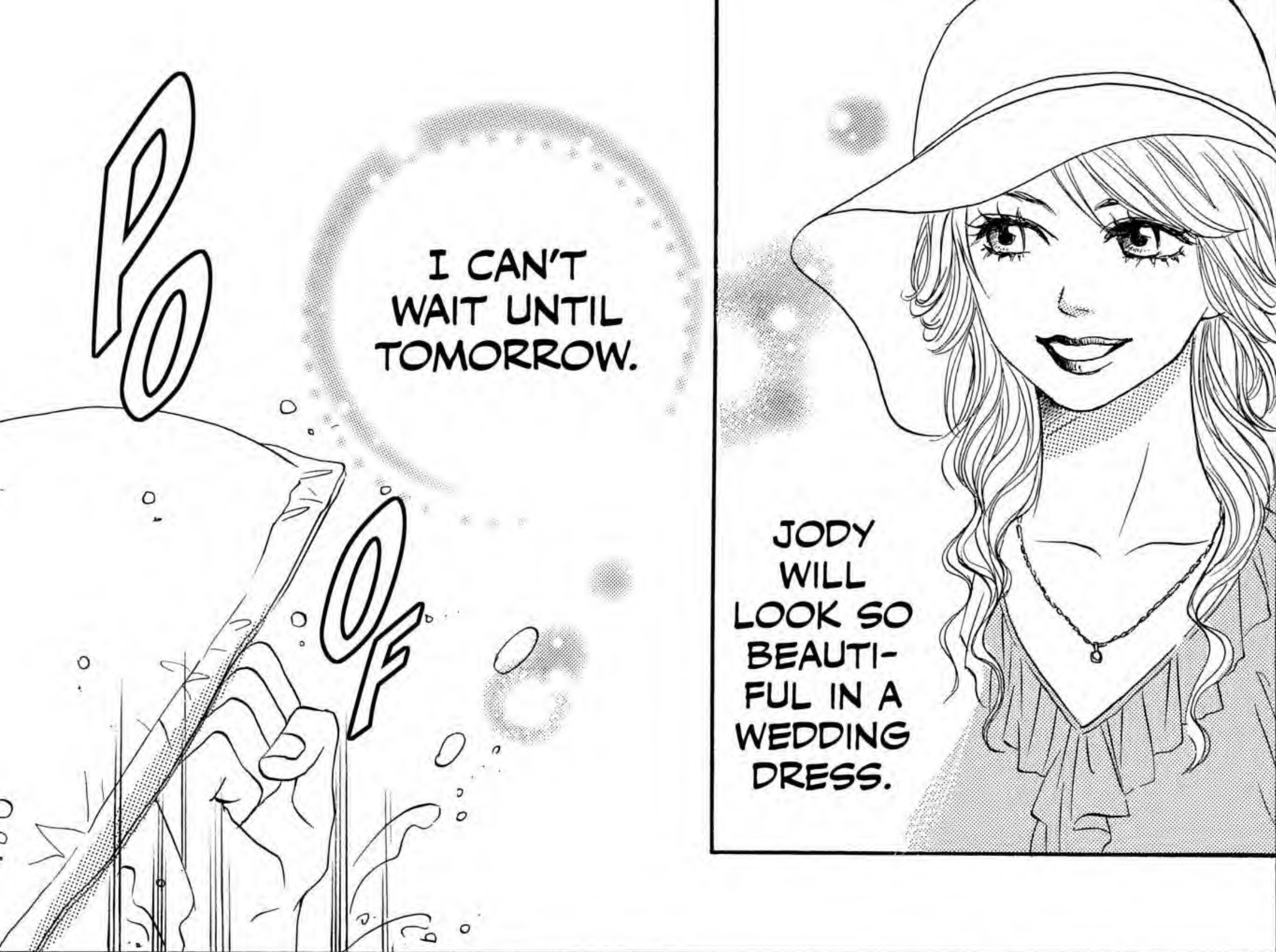


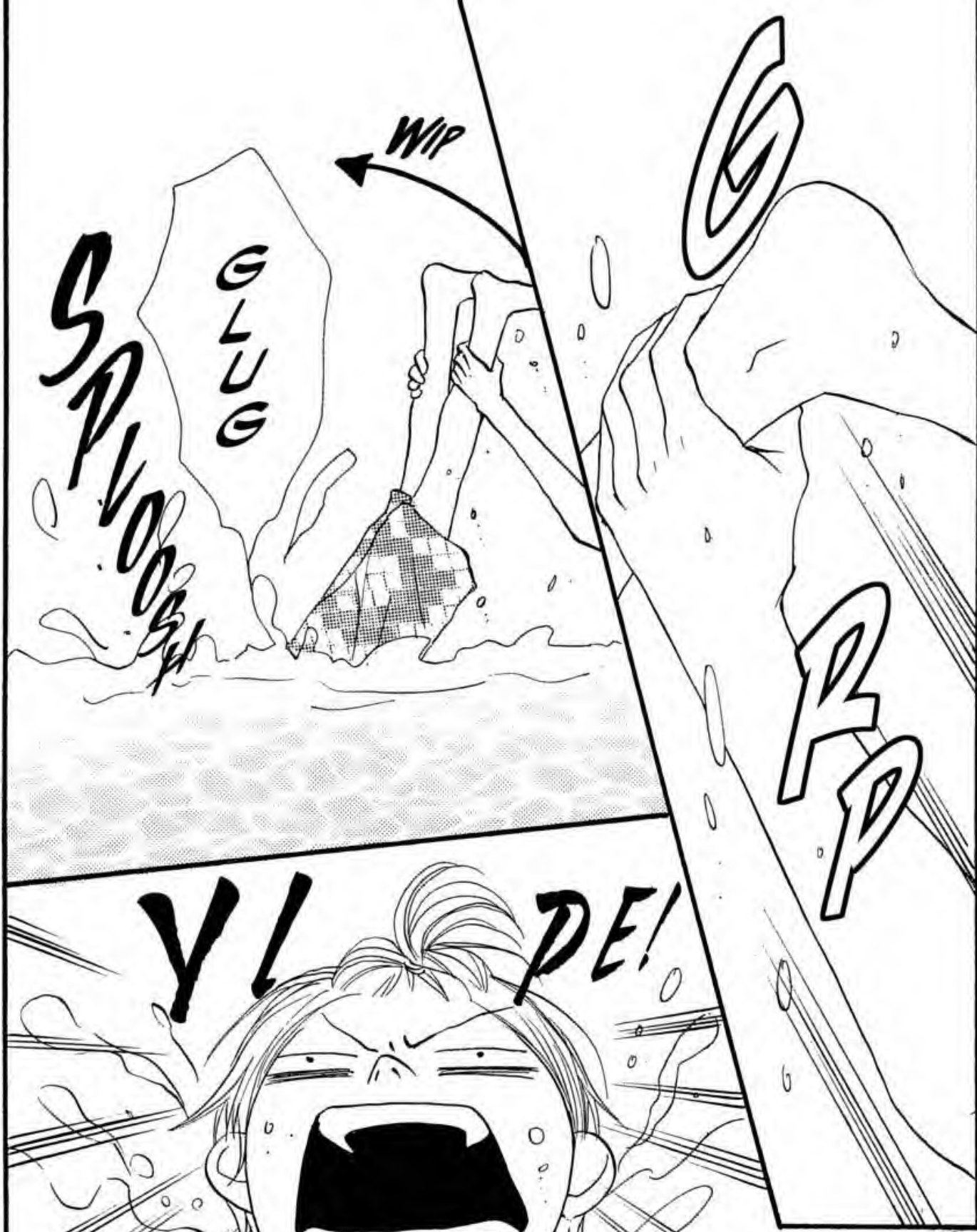














OKAY,
THANKS.

I'LL
JUST
GO GET
SOME
DRINKS.



NO
WAY!

HONESTLY...
WHAT'S
WITH YOU
TWO?

YOU
AIMED
FOR
MY
FACE!!



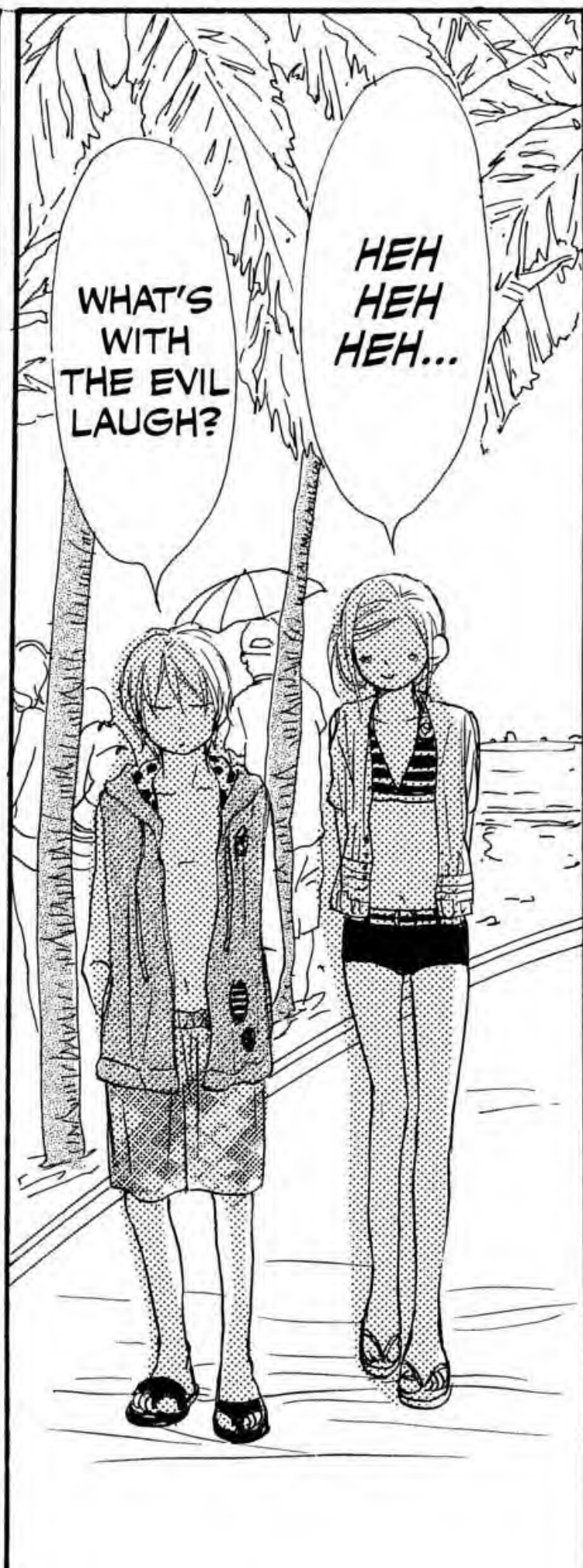
I'M SO
HAPPY!



ALL I
REMEMBER
ABOUT OUR
SCHOOL
TRIP WAS
GETTING
JILTED BY
YOU.

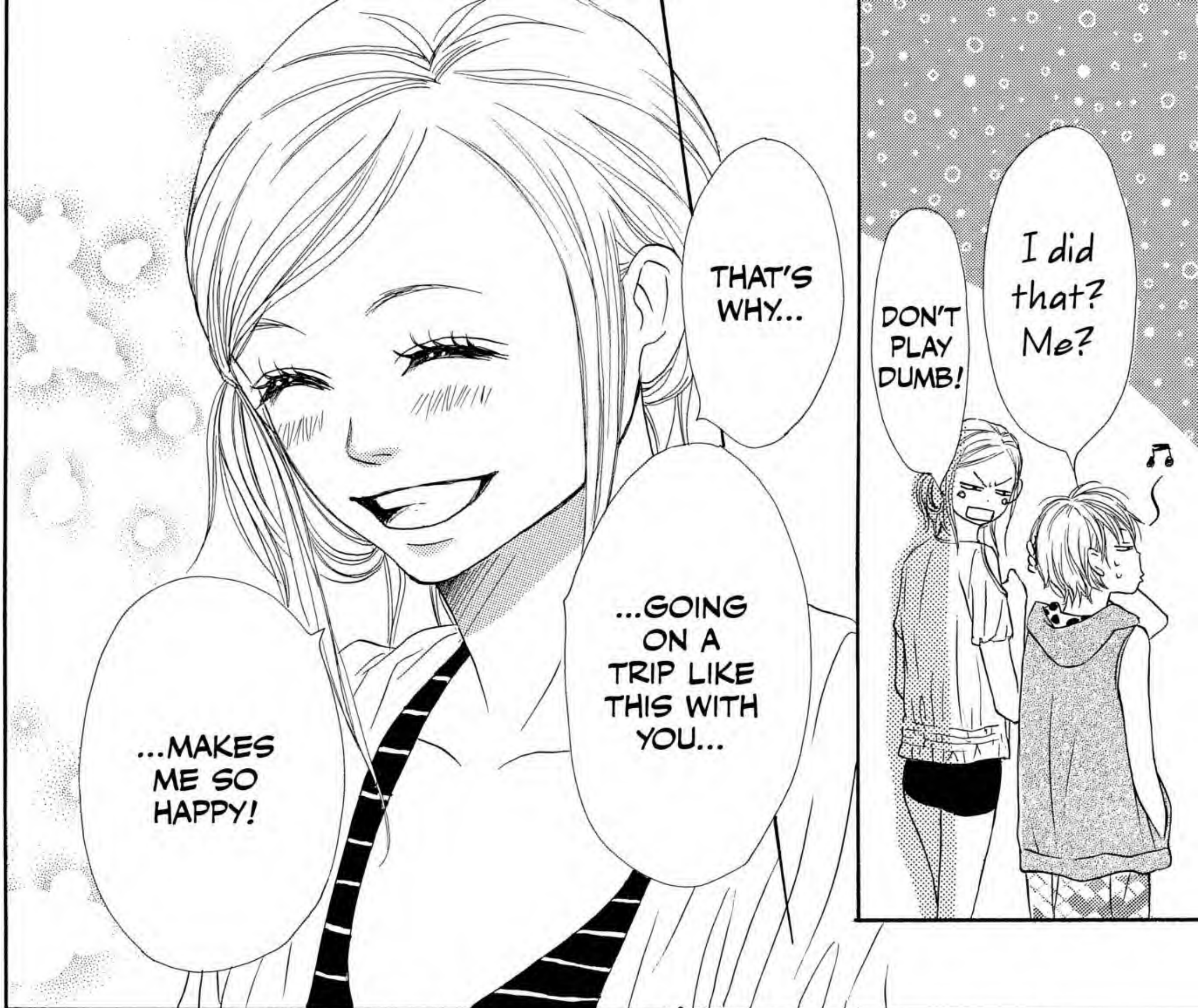
TRAVEL-
ING!

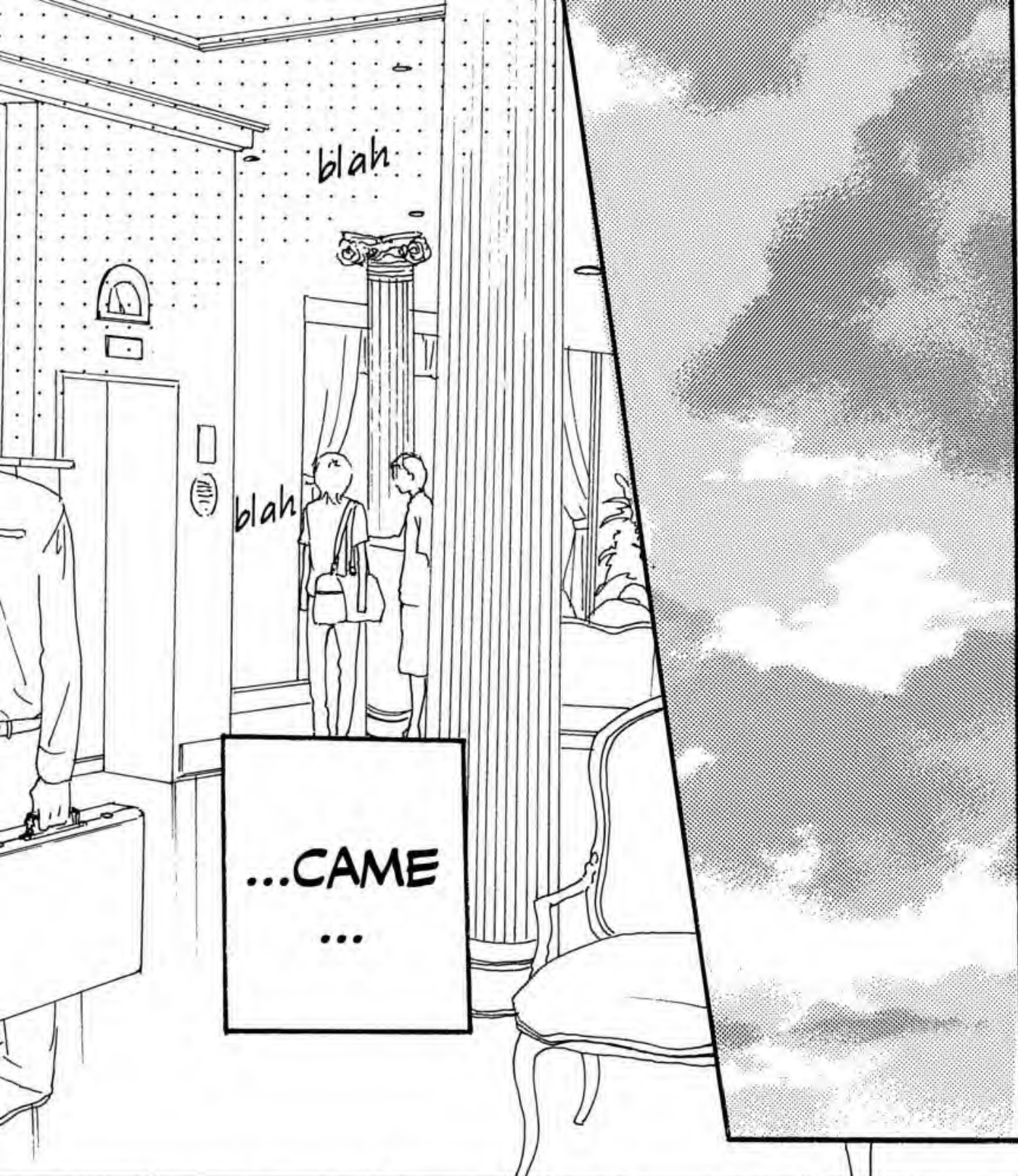
HAPPY?
ABOUT
WHAT?



WHAT'S
WITH
THE EVIL
LAUGH?

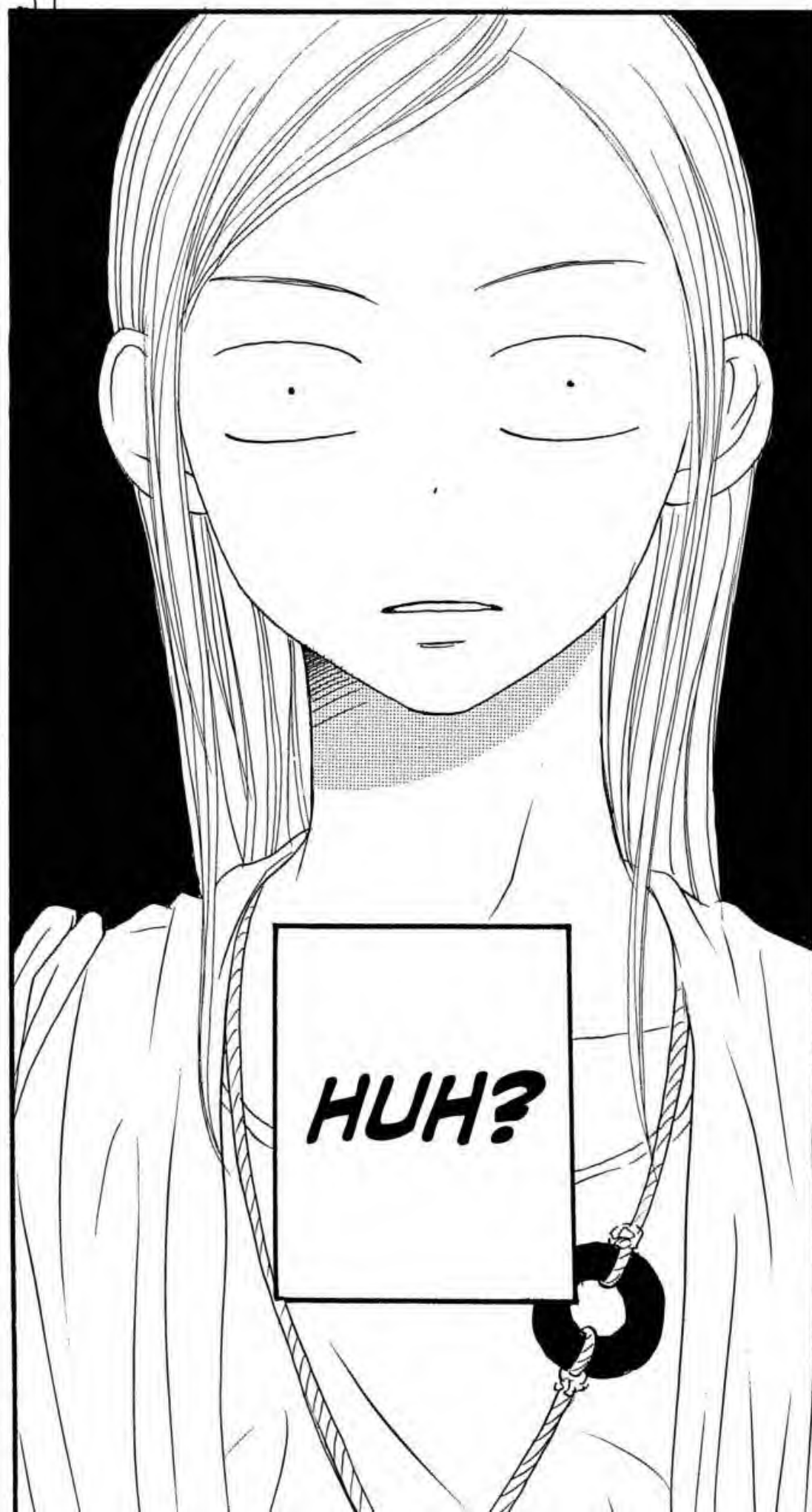
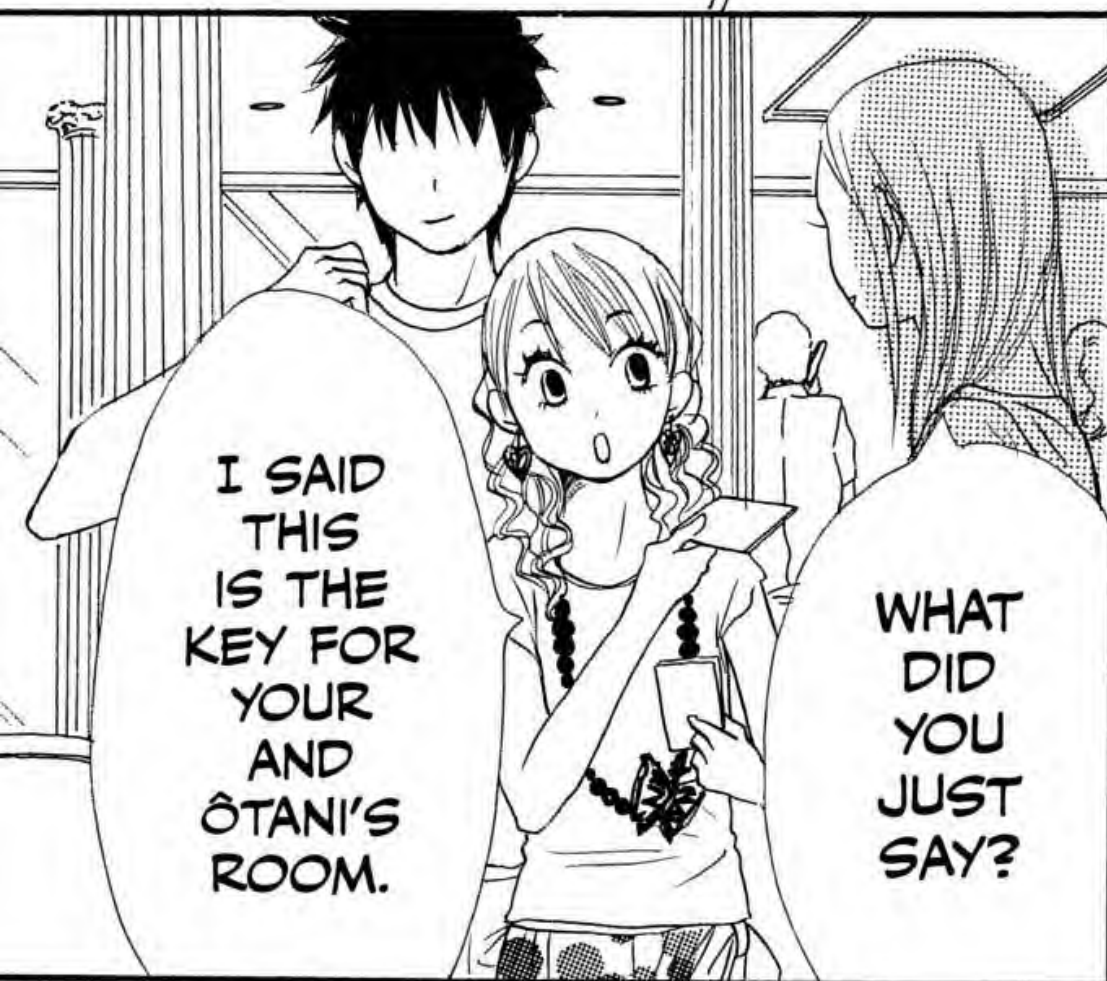
HEH
HEH
HEH...

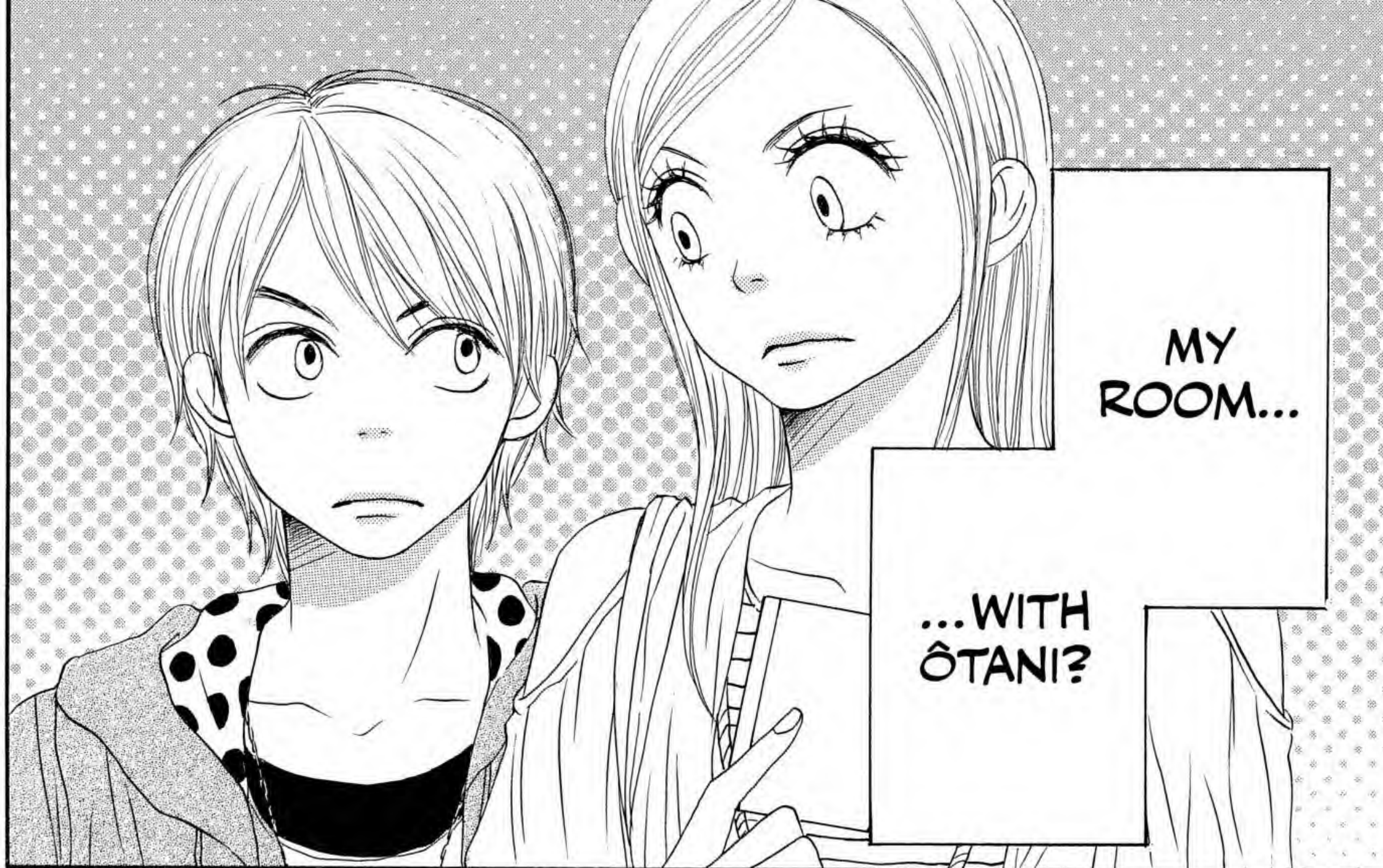




I'M
REALLY
HAPPY.

I'M
GLAD
I...





MY
ROOM...

...WITH
ÔTANI?



WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING?
DON'T TELL
ME YOU
THOUGHT
WE'D BE
DIVIDED INTO
BOYS' AND
GIRLS'
ROOMS!



HUH?

NOBODY
SAID
ANYTHING
ABOUT
**SHARED
ROOMS!!**

**W
H
A
T
?**



BUT...

WE'RE
NOT
ON A
SCHOOL
TRIP
HERE.



WHY
WOULD WE
DO THAT
WHEN WE'VE
GOT THREE
COUPLES?

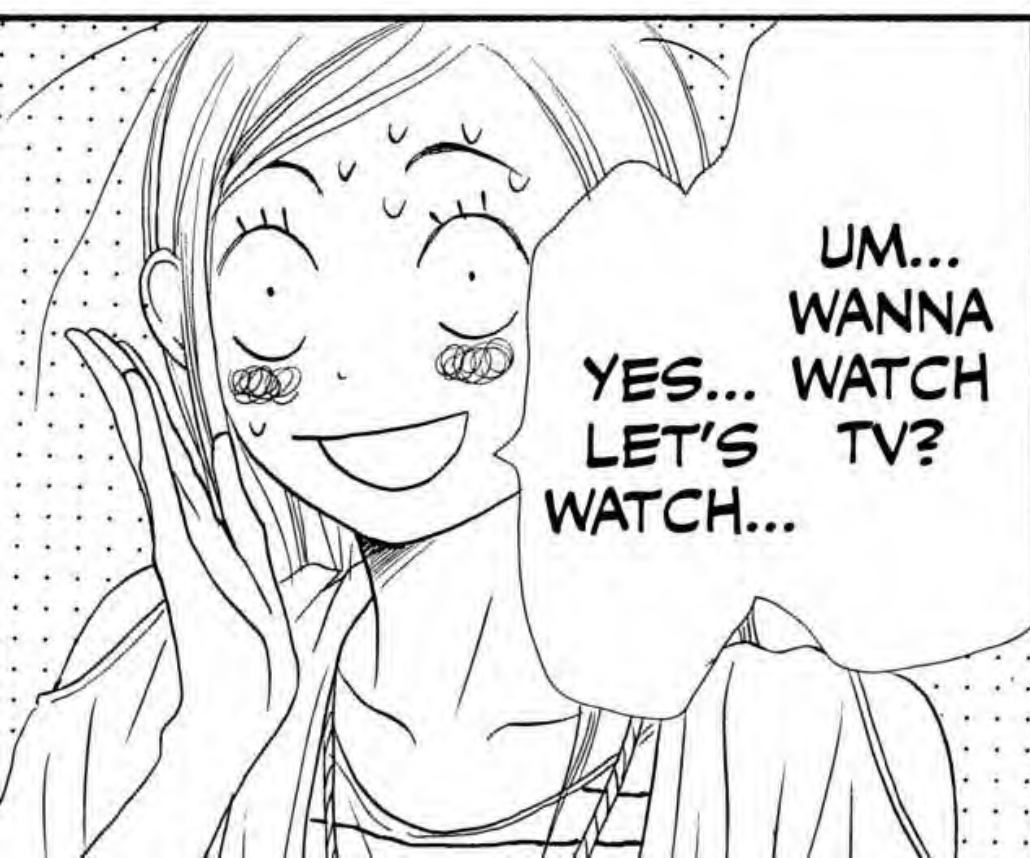
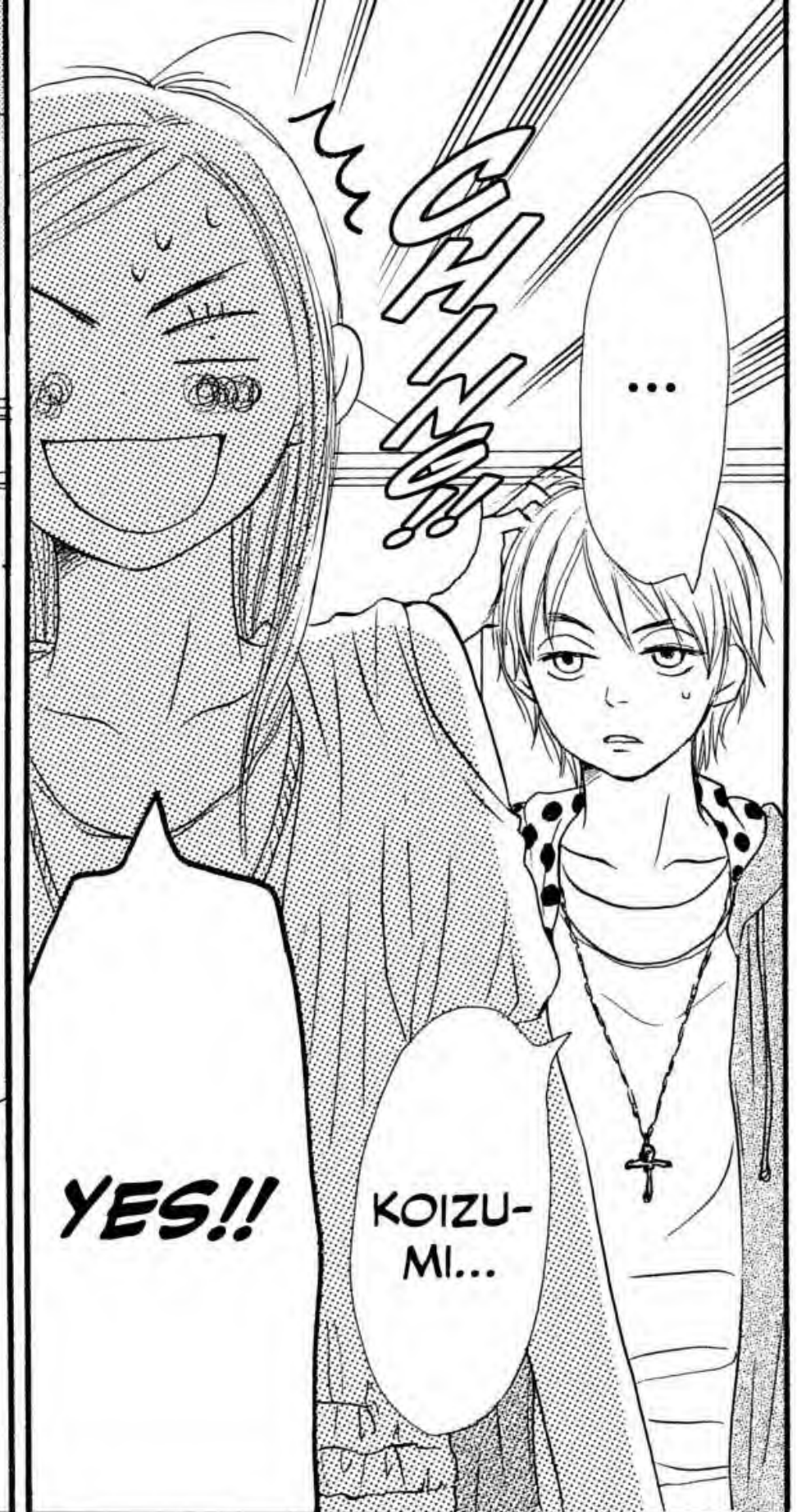
WE
AREN'T?

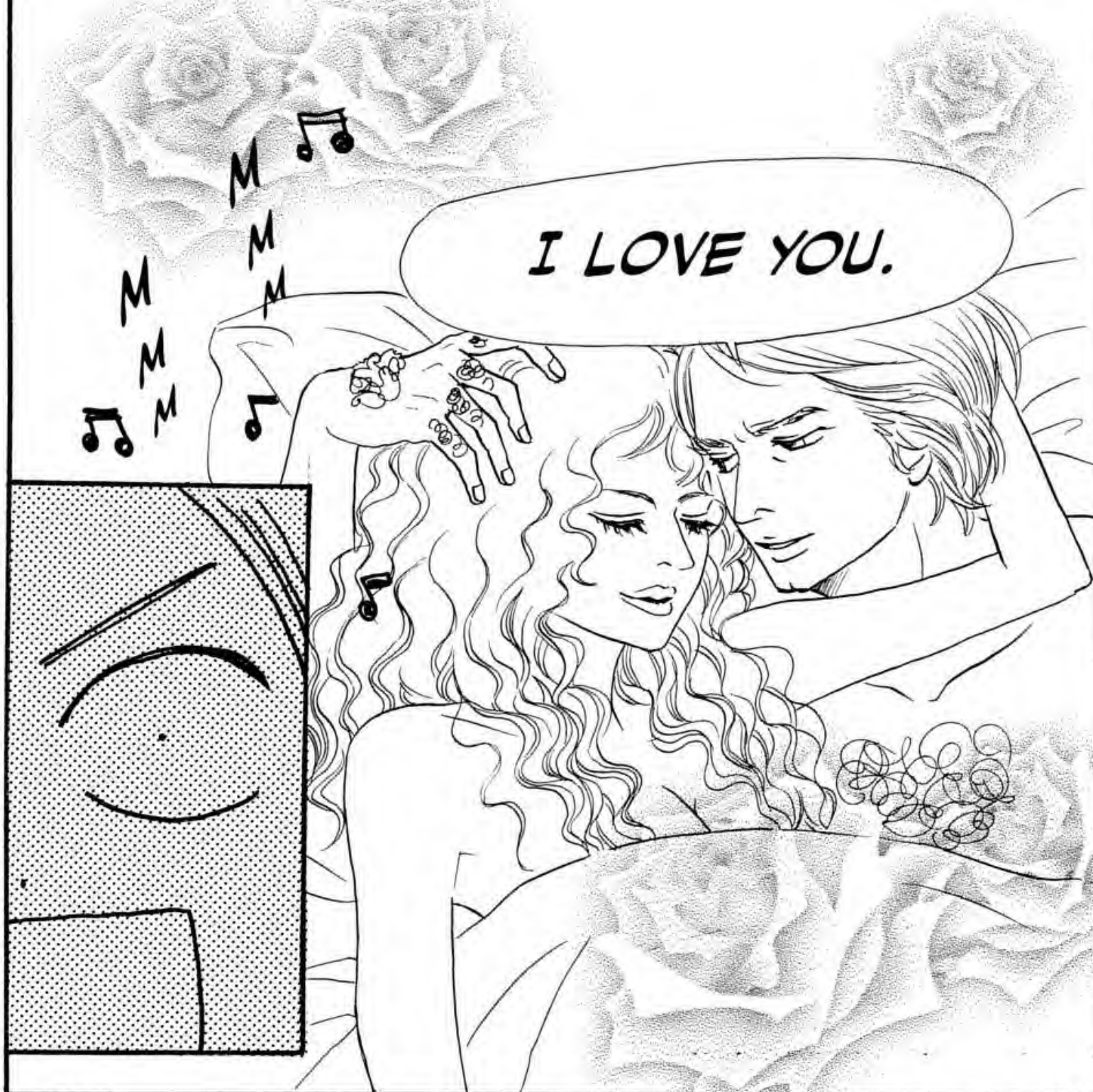




**WHAT
THE
HELL?**







I LOVE YOU.

THAT
MEANS...

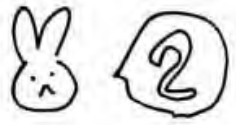


WAH!!

WHAT...

...ARE YOU
DOING?

SHOOT



Well, summer is over!

Summer came and went like a whirlwind, what with all the meetings and preparations for the movie premiere. We collaborated on a lot of things that appear in both the comic and the live-action movie, like the costumes and plotlines. It was a new experience and it was lots of fun. It also seemed like I was working on color illustrations at a fever pitch all summer. Then the deadline for the manga kept looming. So every day was really busy. I have nothing left in me. I'm just a shell of my former self.

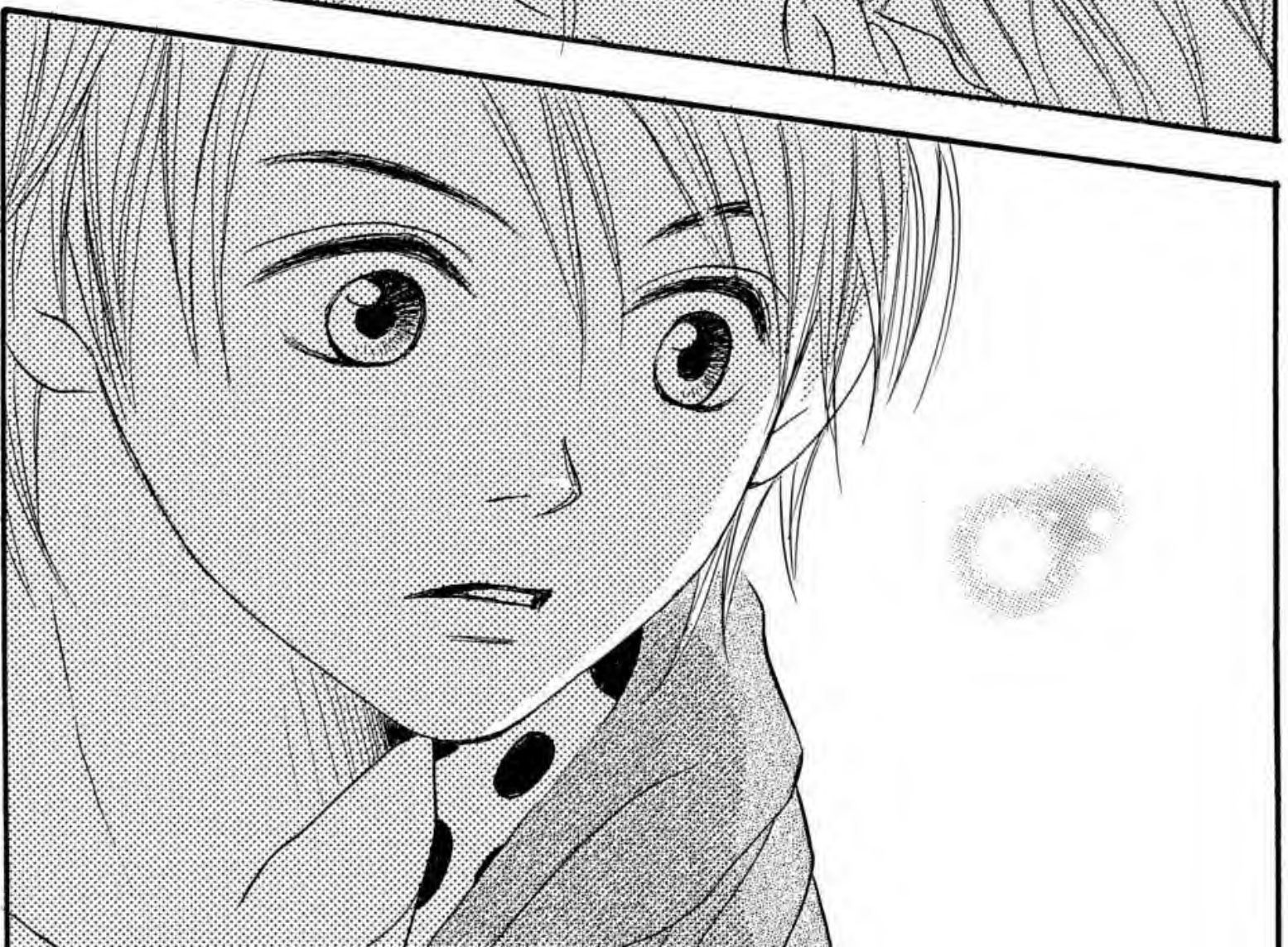
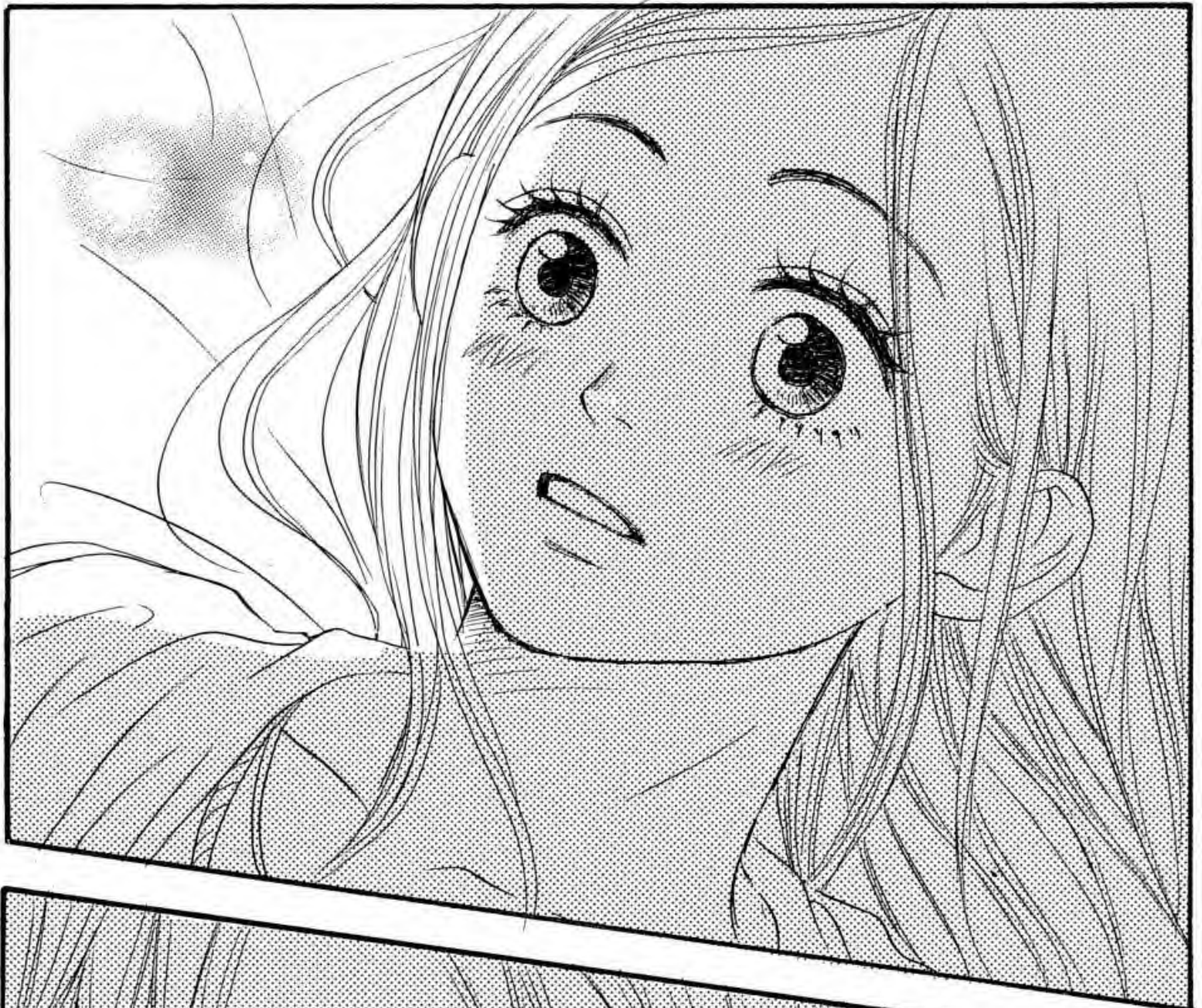


It's always this way.

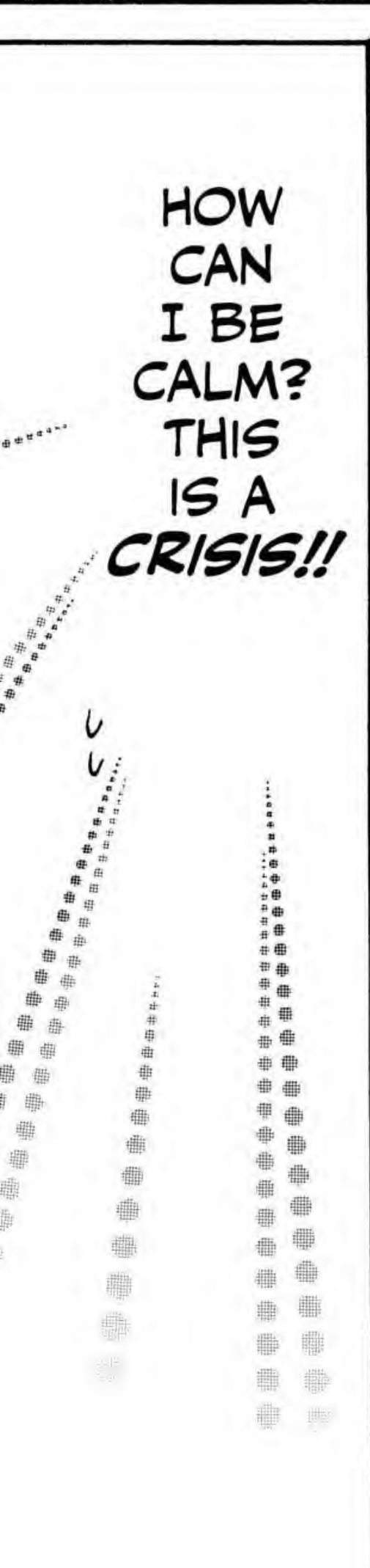
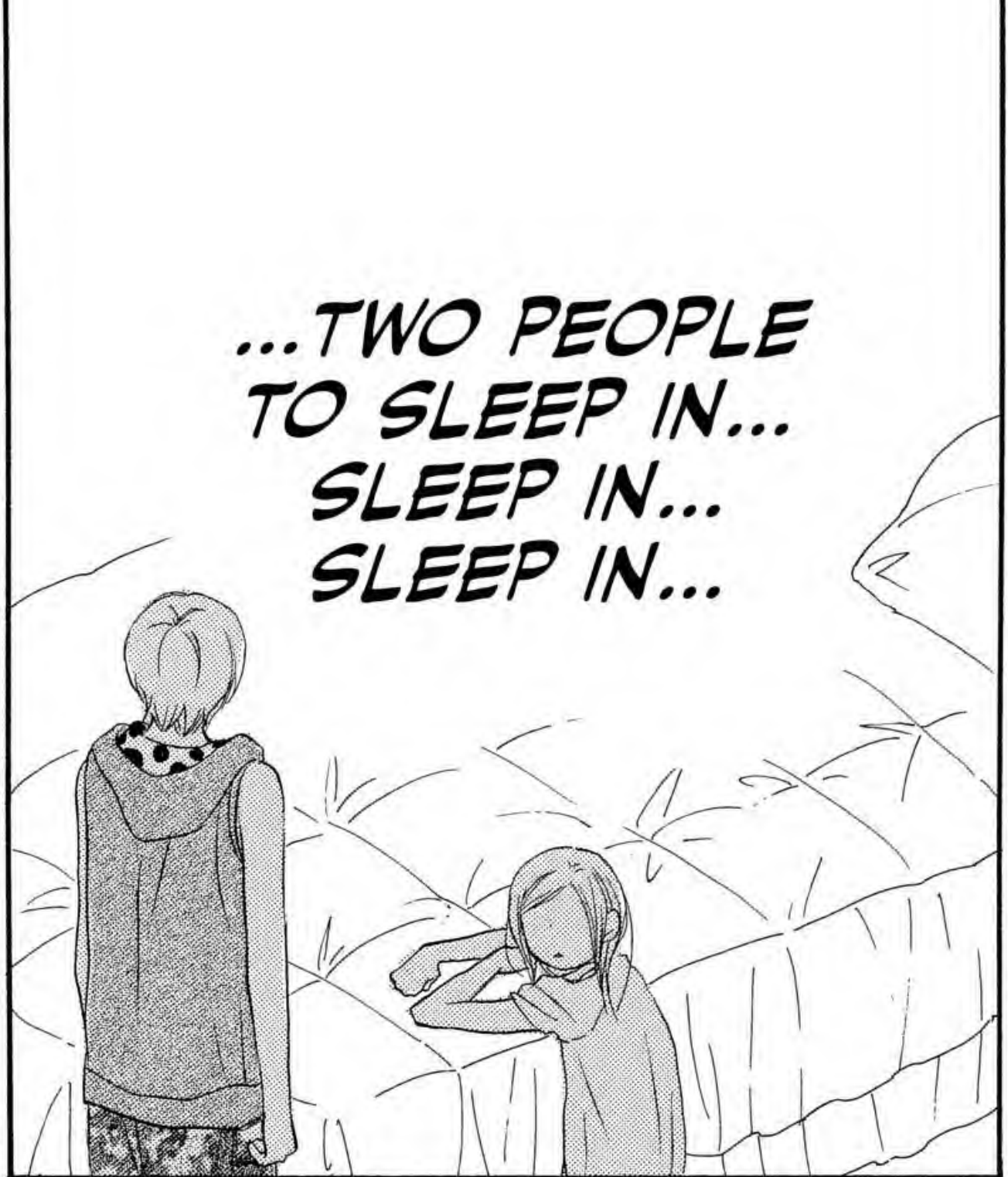


Ha
ha
ha...

Hang in there!!









CHIHARU
CAME
HERE
WITH HER
MIND
MADE UP,
RIGHT?

BUT...

Huh?
Well...
er...

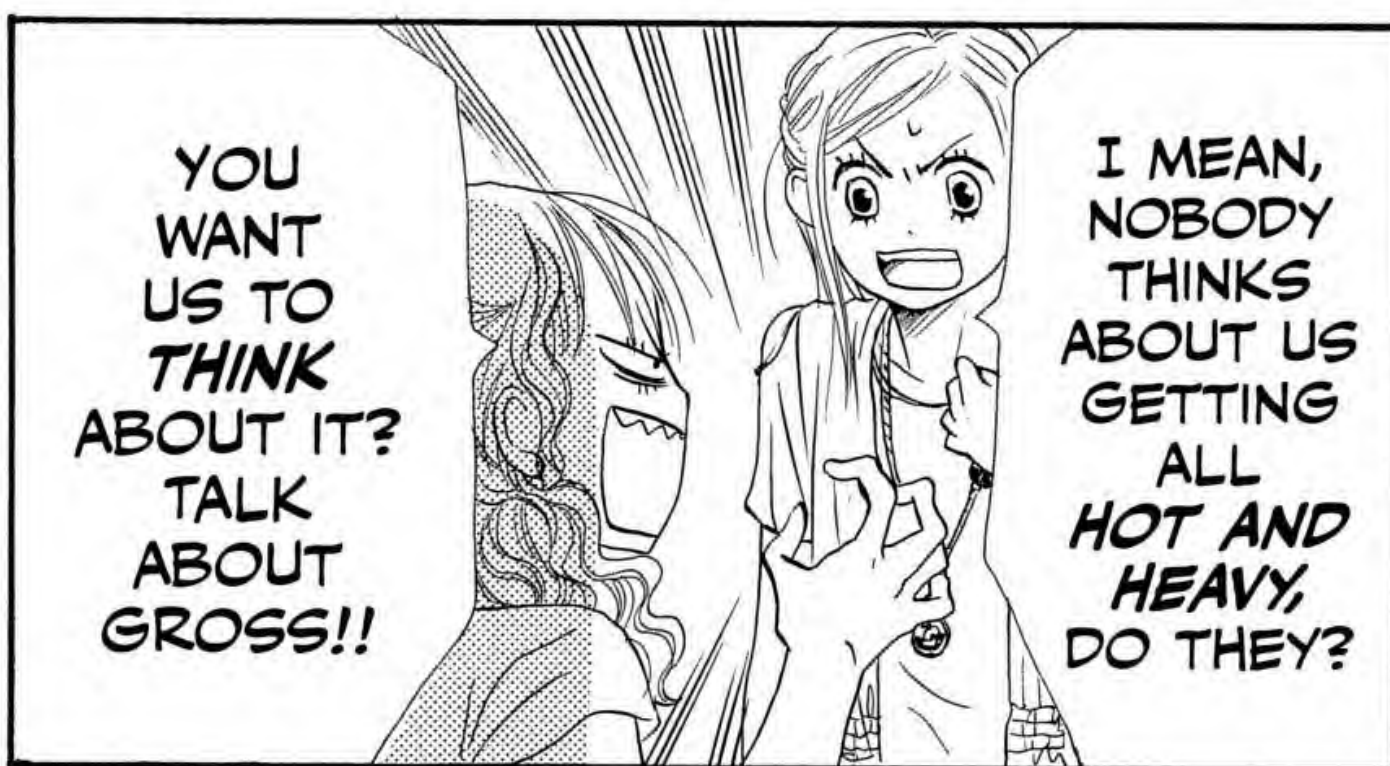


YOU'RE ON
VACATION
WITH YOUR
BOYFRIEND
AND YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
THINK
ABOUT IT?



*GET
OVER
IT?*

JUST
GET
OVER IT
ALREADY.



YOU
WANT
US TO
THINK
ABOUT IT?
TALK
ABOUT
GROSS!!

I MEAN,
NOBODY
THINKS
ABOUT US
GETTING
ALL
*HOT AND
HEAVY*,
DO THEY?



THE
SHAME-
LESS
TRAIN IS
MOVING
OUT!!

Choo-
choo!!

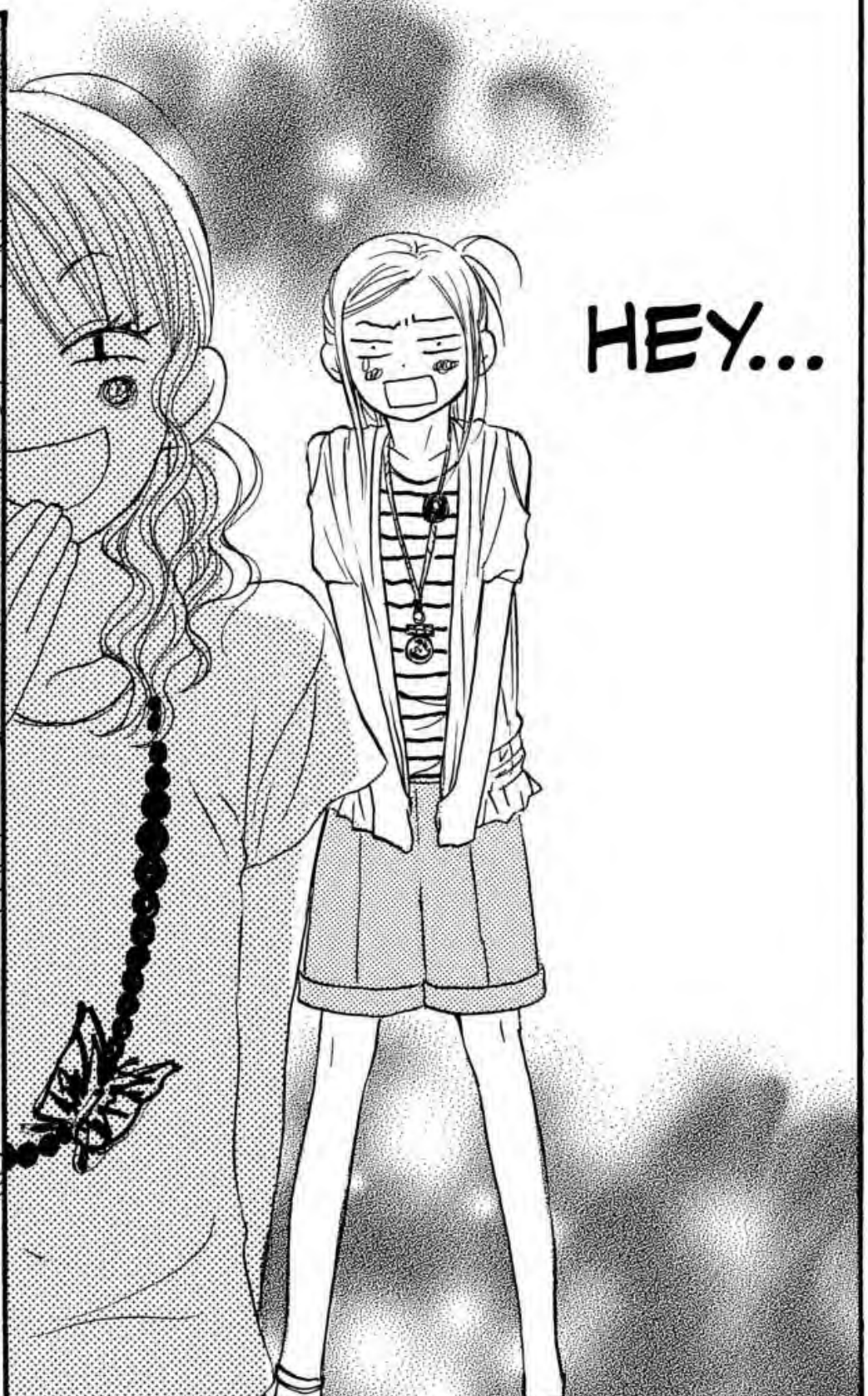
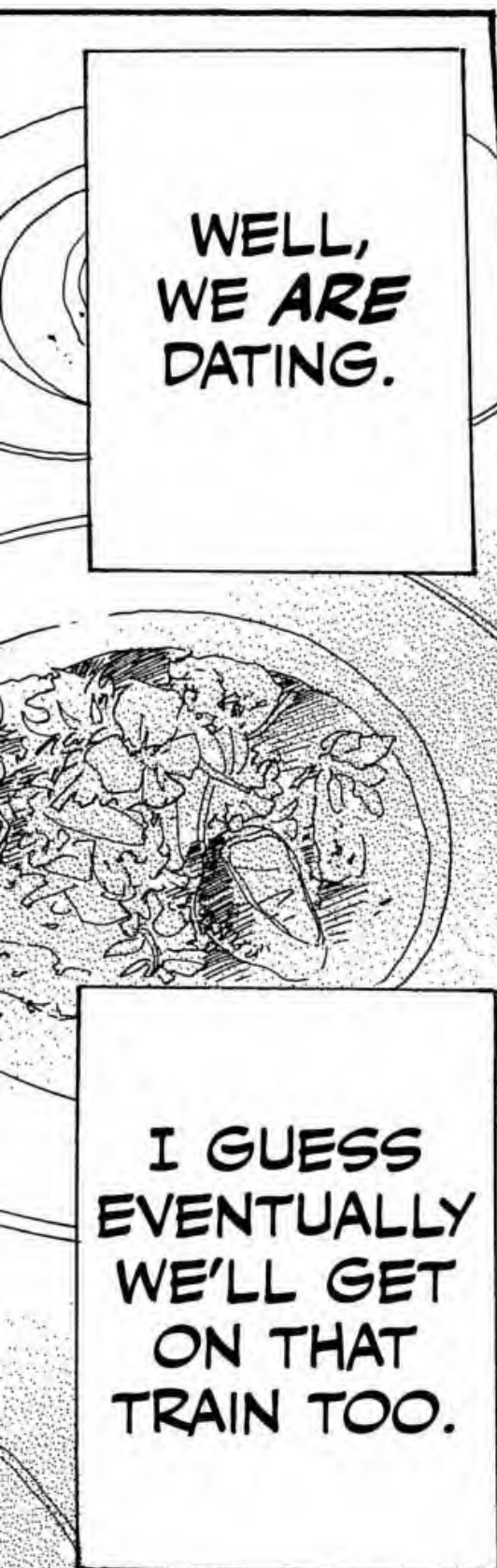
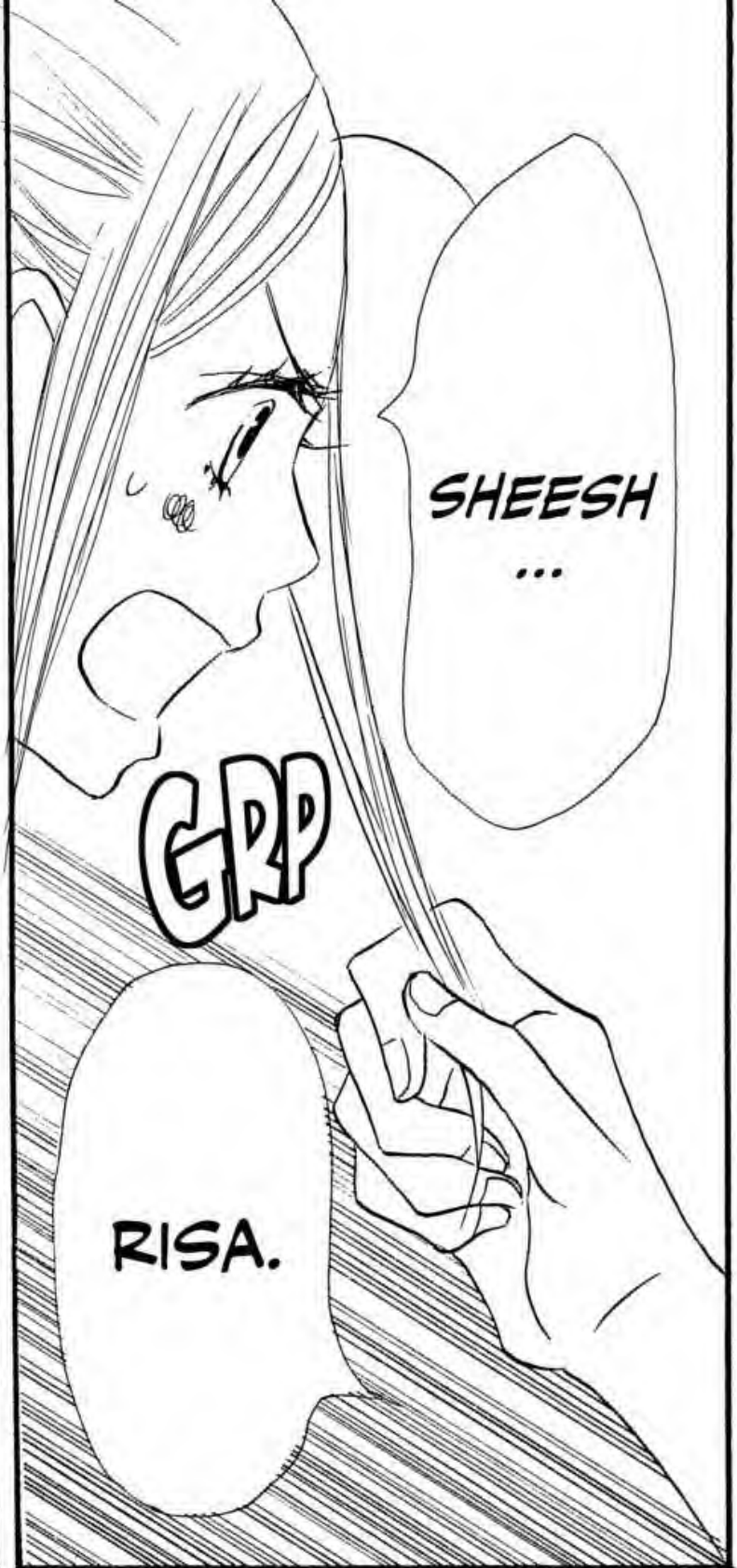
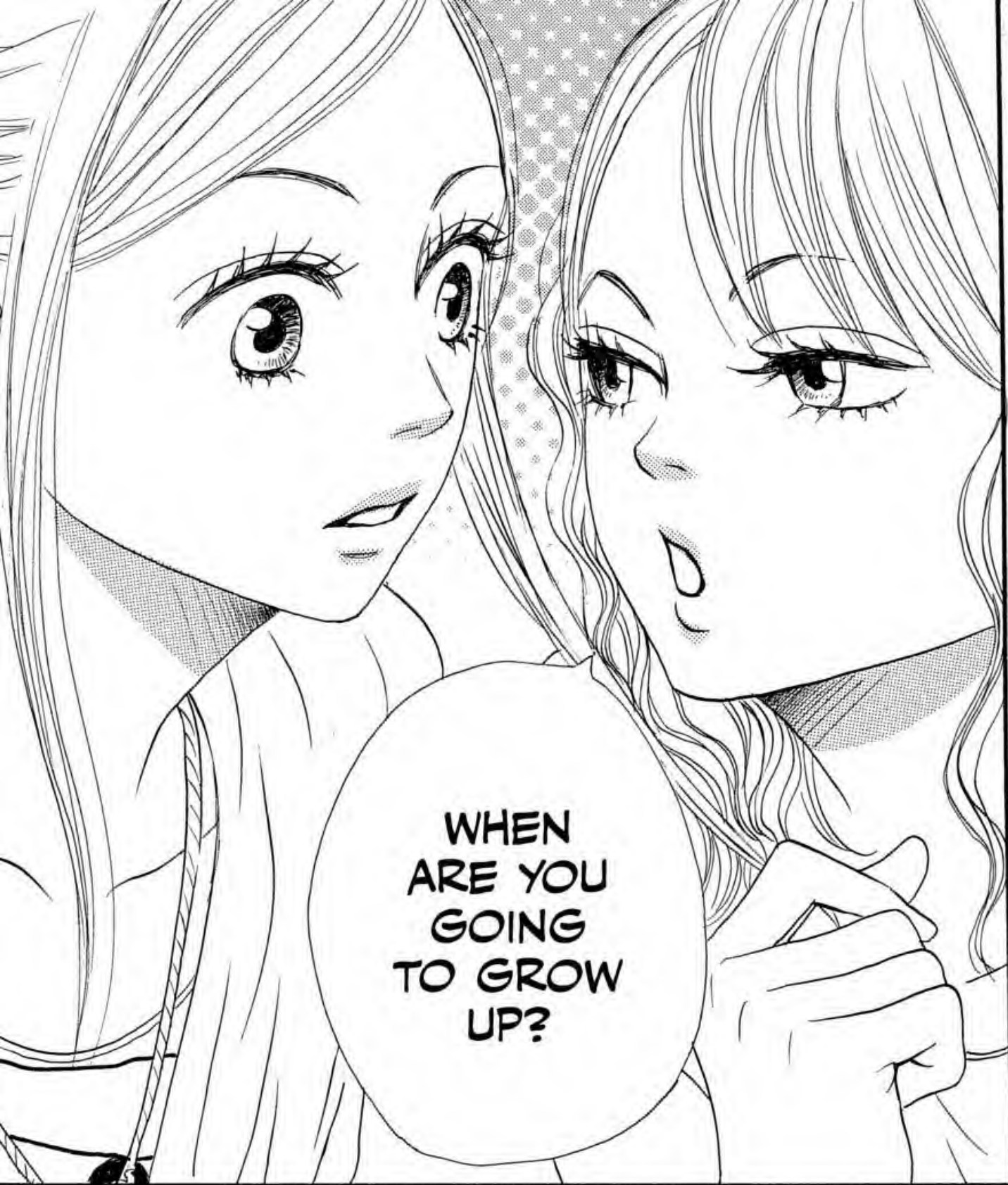
HOW
OLD
ARE
YOU?

THAT'S
WHAT
I'M
SAYING!
IT'S
MESSED
UP!!



A
COUPLE?
PAST
PUBERTY?

WE'RE
NOT...

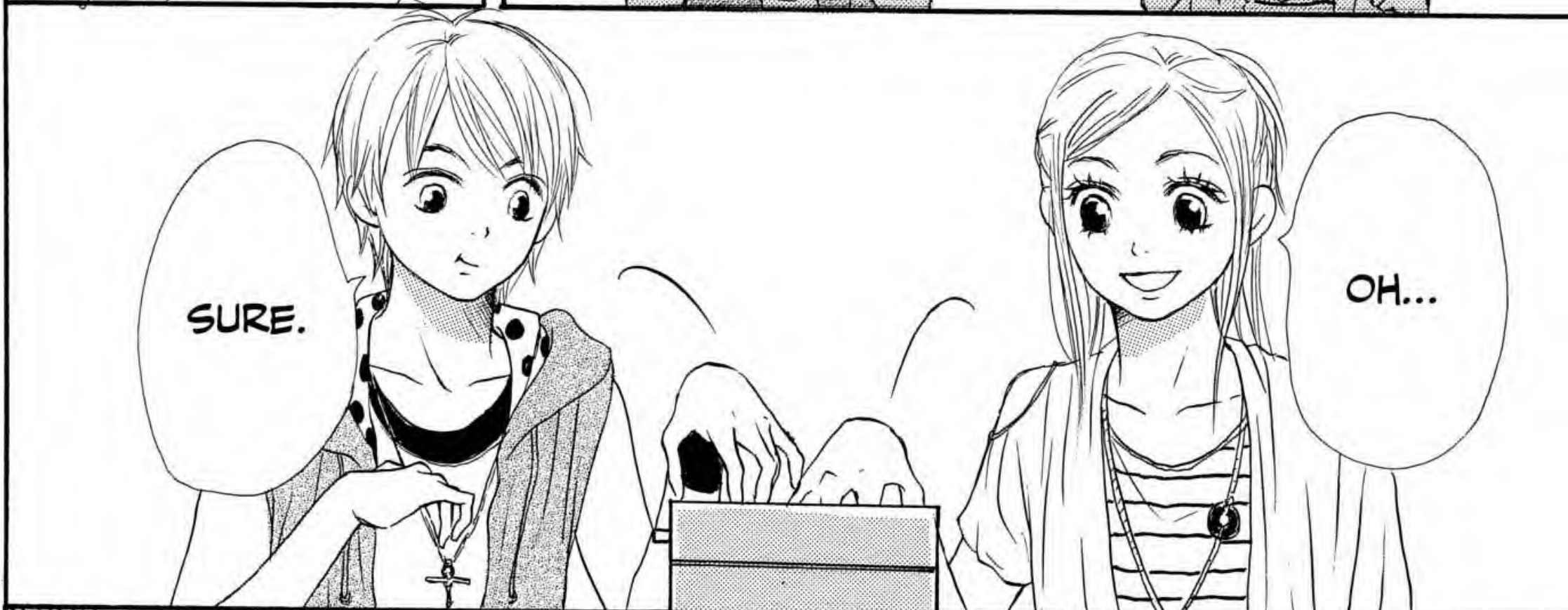




...I'M
NOT
READY!!

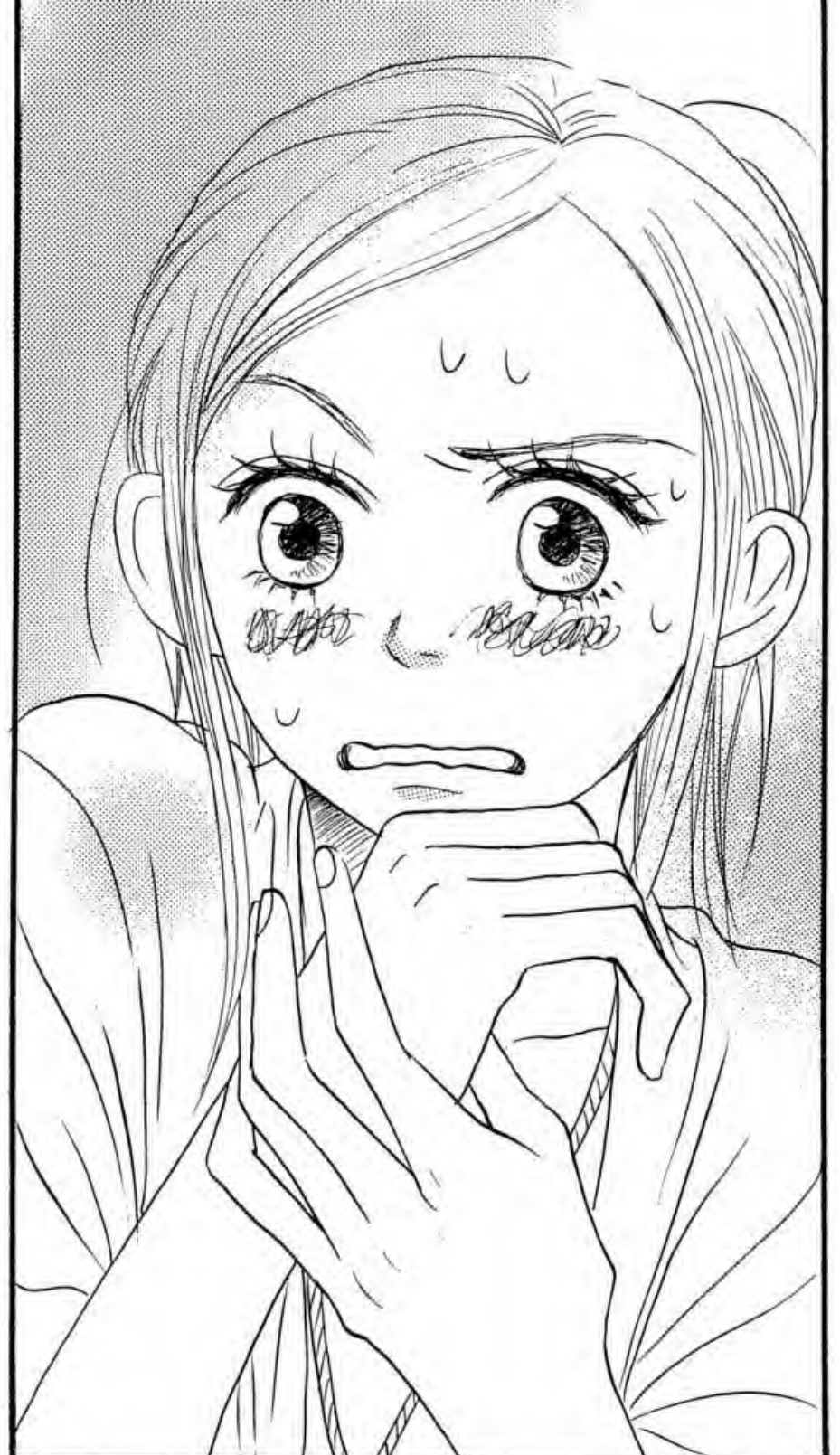
BUT...

HAS
THE
TIME
COME?





NO...
THIS IS NO GOOD.



OKAY!

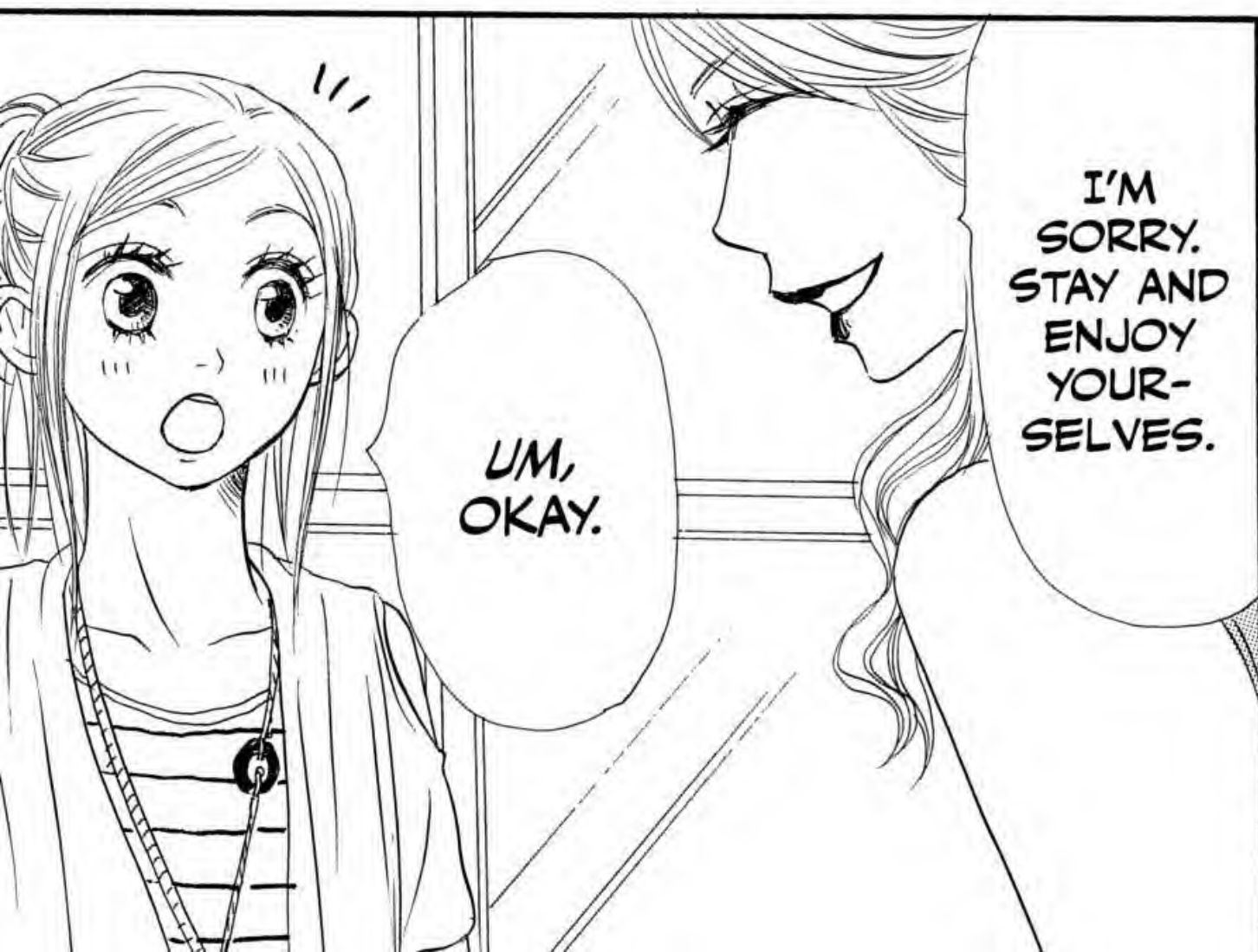
TAKE CARE OF THE GANG, OKAY, JACK?

I'LL COME WITH YOU.
BUT...



TAK

SORRY... I'M JUST SO ANXIOUS.



UM, OKAY.

I'M SORRY. STAY AND ENJOY YOURSELVES.



I'M GOING BACK TO THE ROOM.



THEIR
ROOM...

THEY'RE
GOING
BACK
TO...
THEIR
ROOM.



WHAT
WAS
THAT
ABOUT?

THE
CEREMONY IS
TOMORROW.
MAYBE IT'S
PRE-WEDDING
JITTERS.



ROOM...
ROOM...



COME
ON IN.

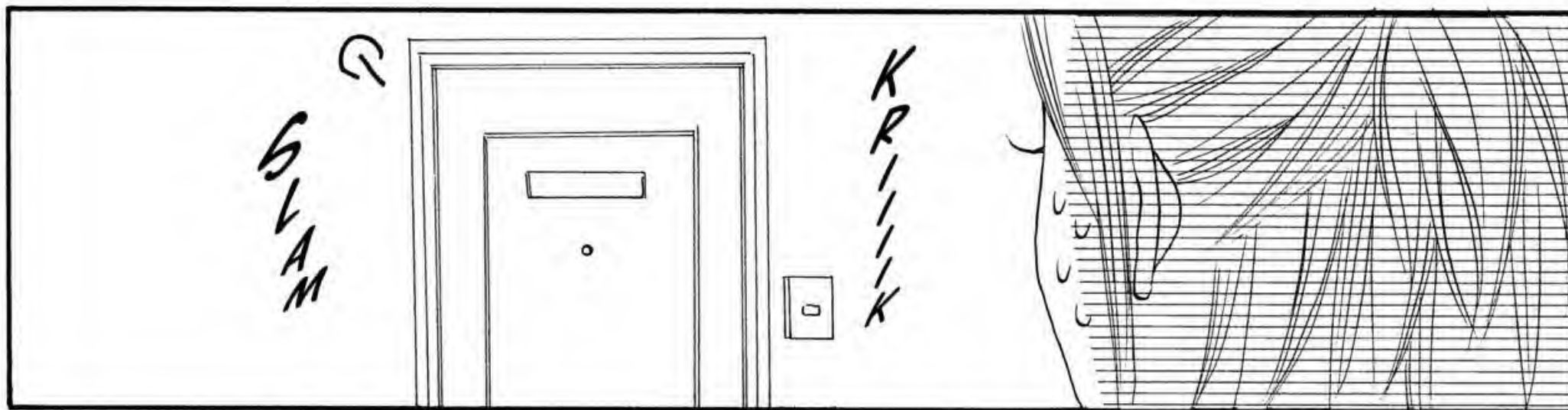
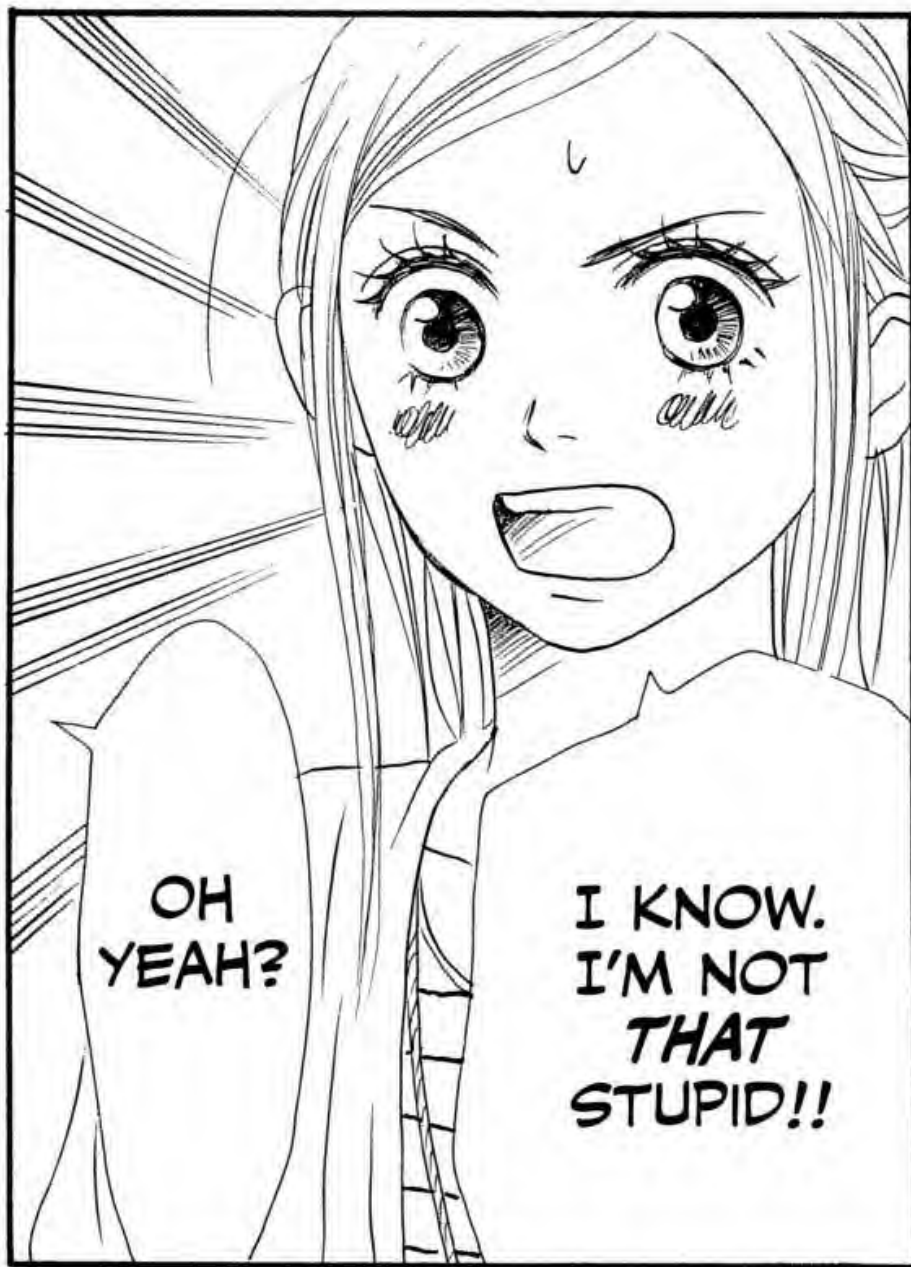
HUH?

I'll see
you
tomor-
row.

CH
A
K

I DON'T
WANNA
GO
THERE.

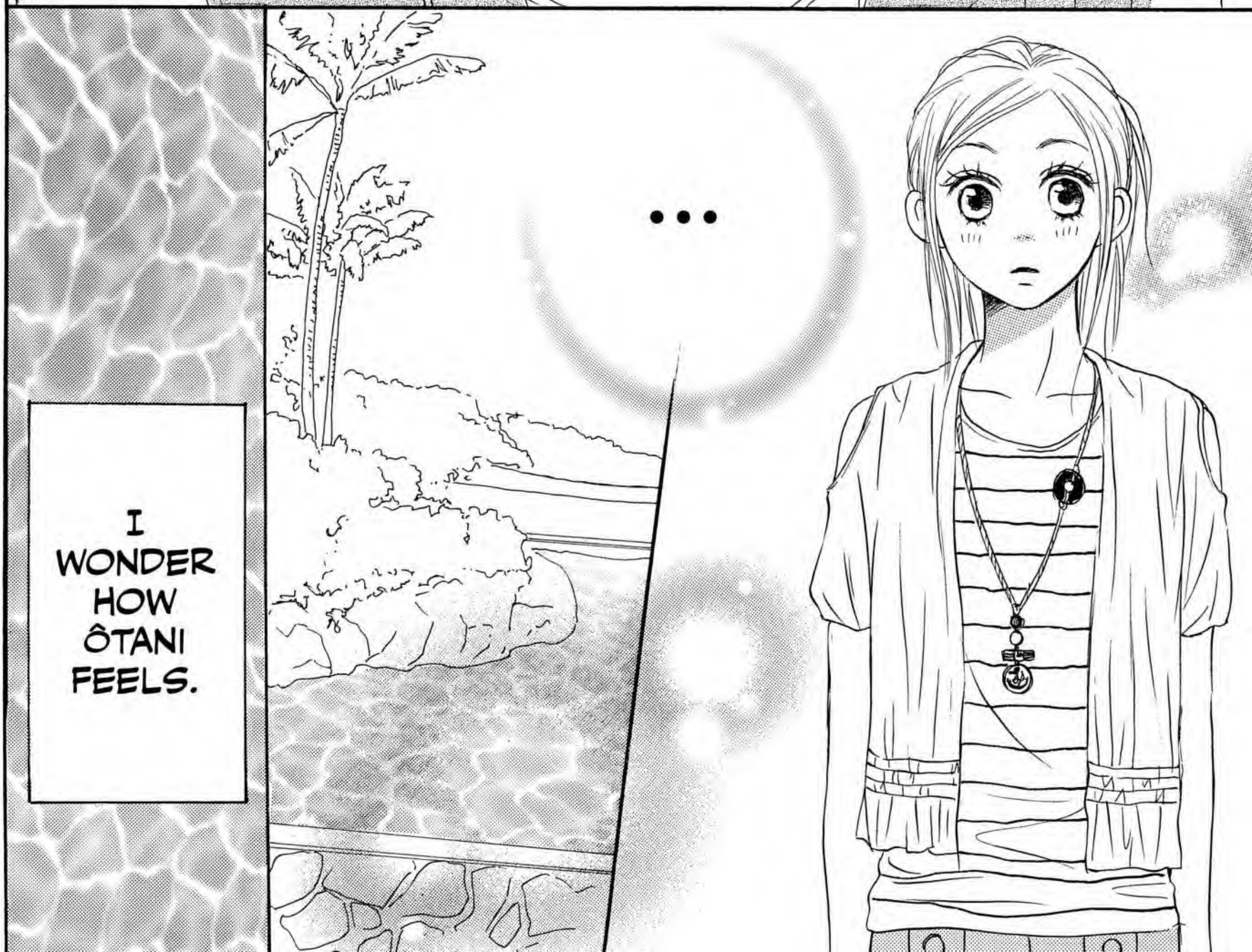
CH
A
CH
A
K



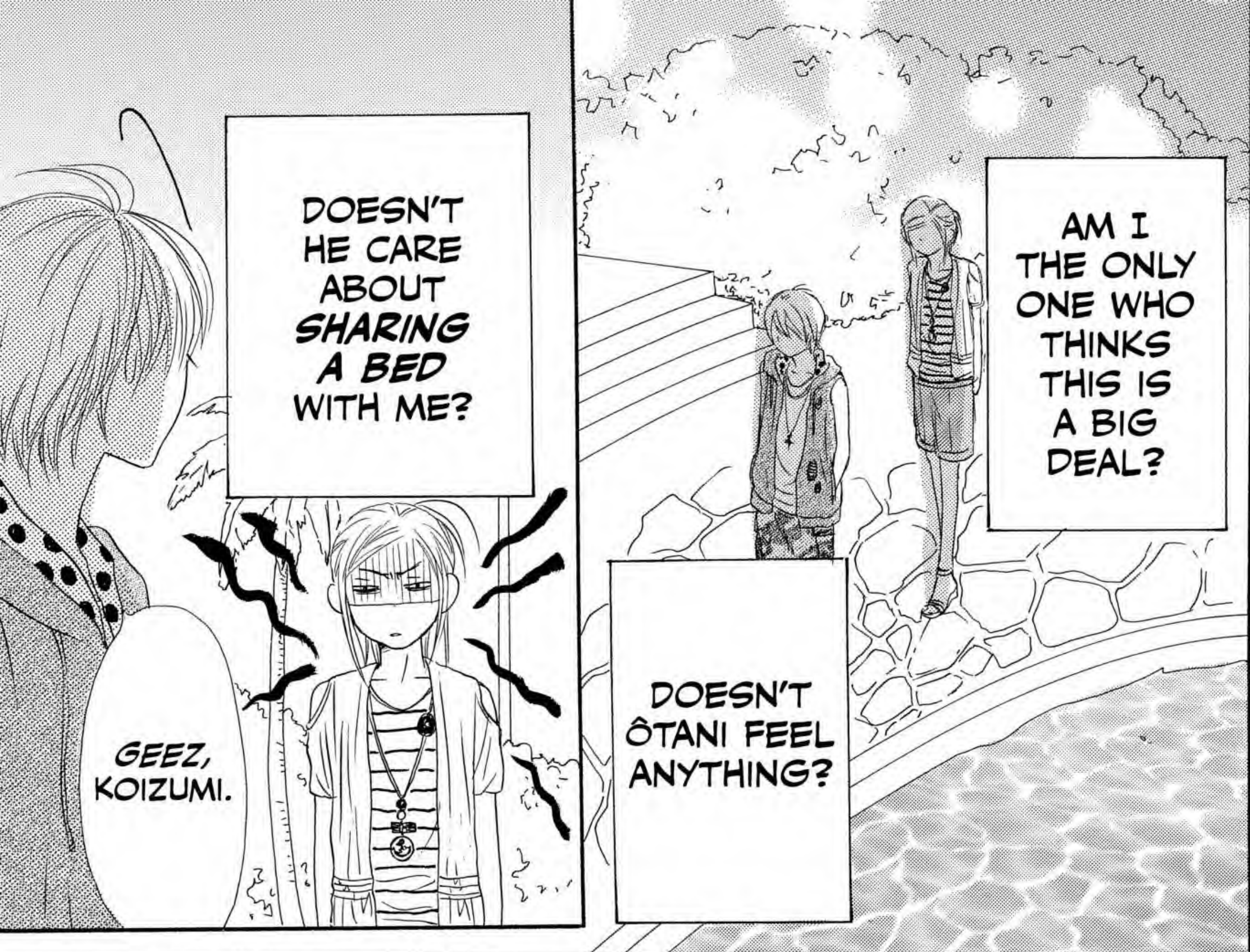


...GO
FOR A
WALK
OUT-
SIDE?

WANT
TO...



I
WONDER
HOW
ÔTANI
FEELS.



DOESN'T HE CARE ABOUT **SHARING A BED** WITH ME?

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THIS IS A BIG DEAL?

GEEZ, KOIZUMI.

DOESN'T ÔTANI FEEL ANYTHING?



I...I WAS LISTENING! IT WAS ABOUT HOW SEXY JACK'S SIDEBURNS ARE, RIGHT?

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE BEEN SAYING, HAVE YOU?



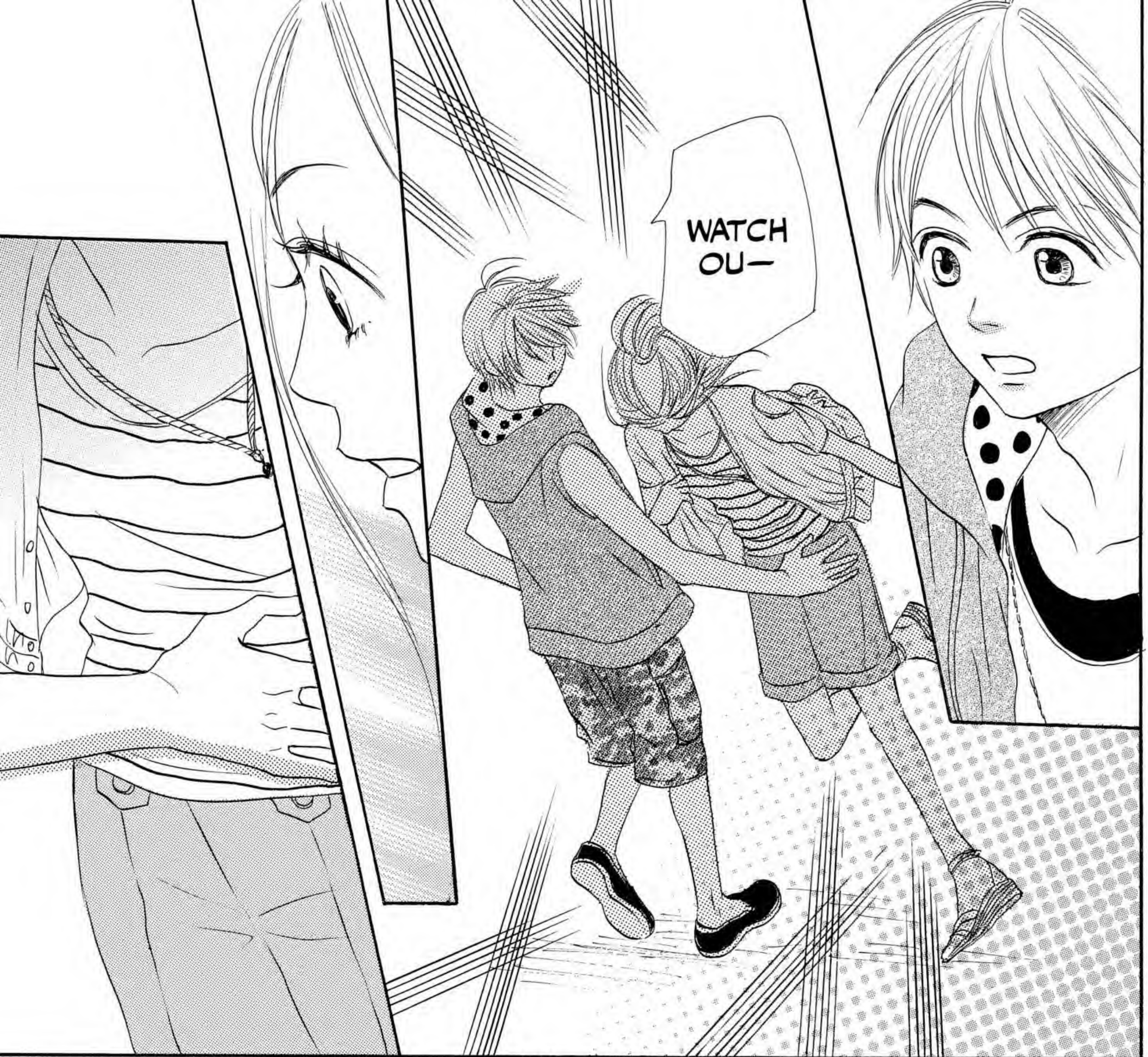
HUH? THEN WAS IT ABOUT **YOUR SIDE-BURNS?**

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

THERE WAS NO MENTION OF SIDE-BURNS!



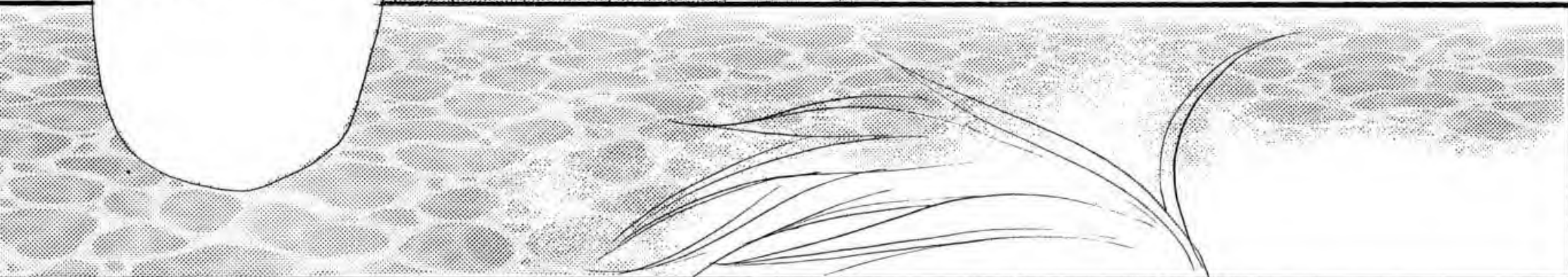
HUH?





I THINK
I WANT
TO BE
ALONE.

I...I'M
SORRY.



**I
JUST
CAN'T
!!**

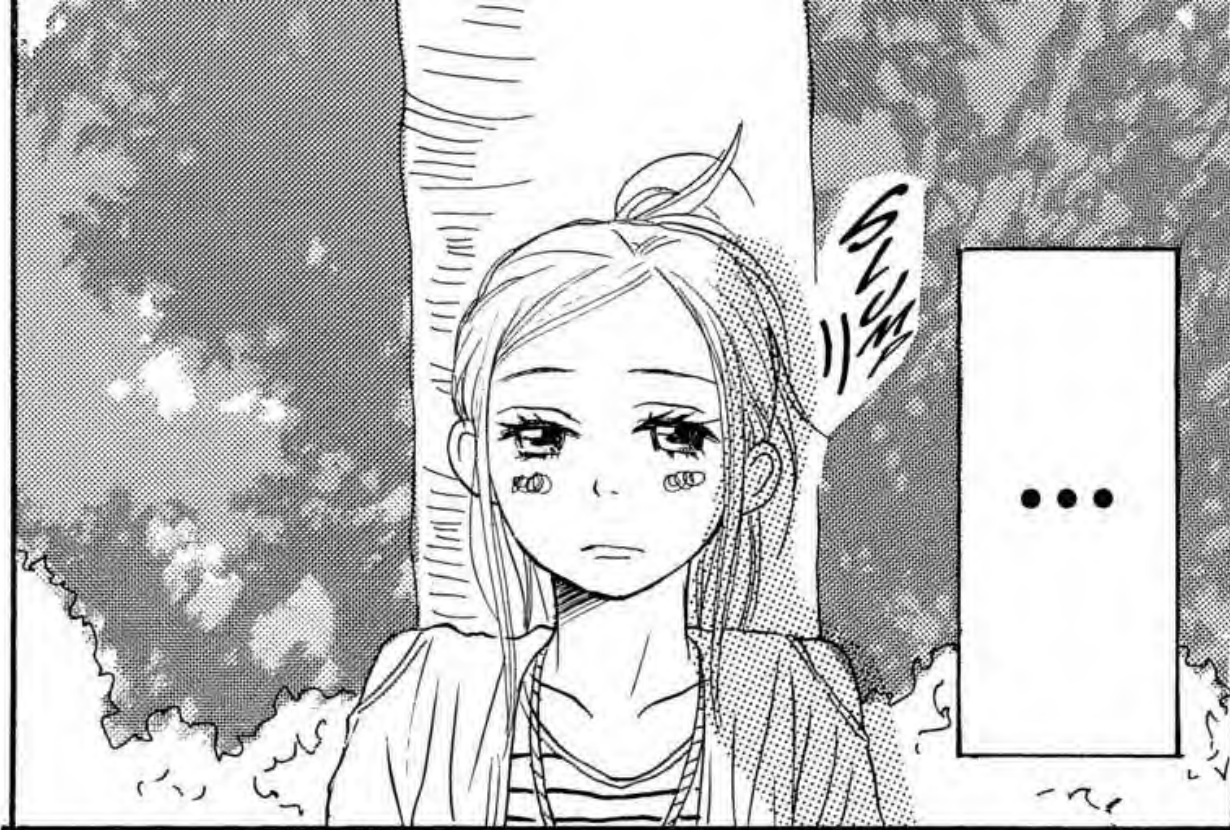
OH
NO...

NO
NO
NO...

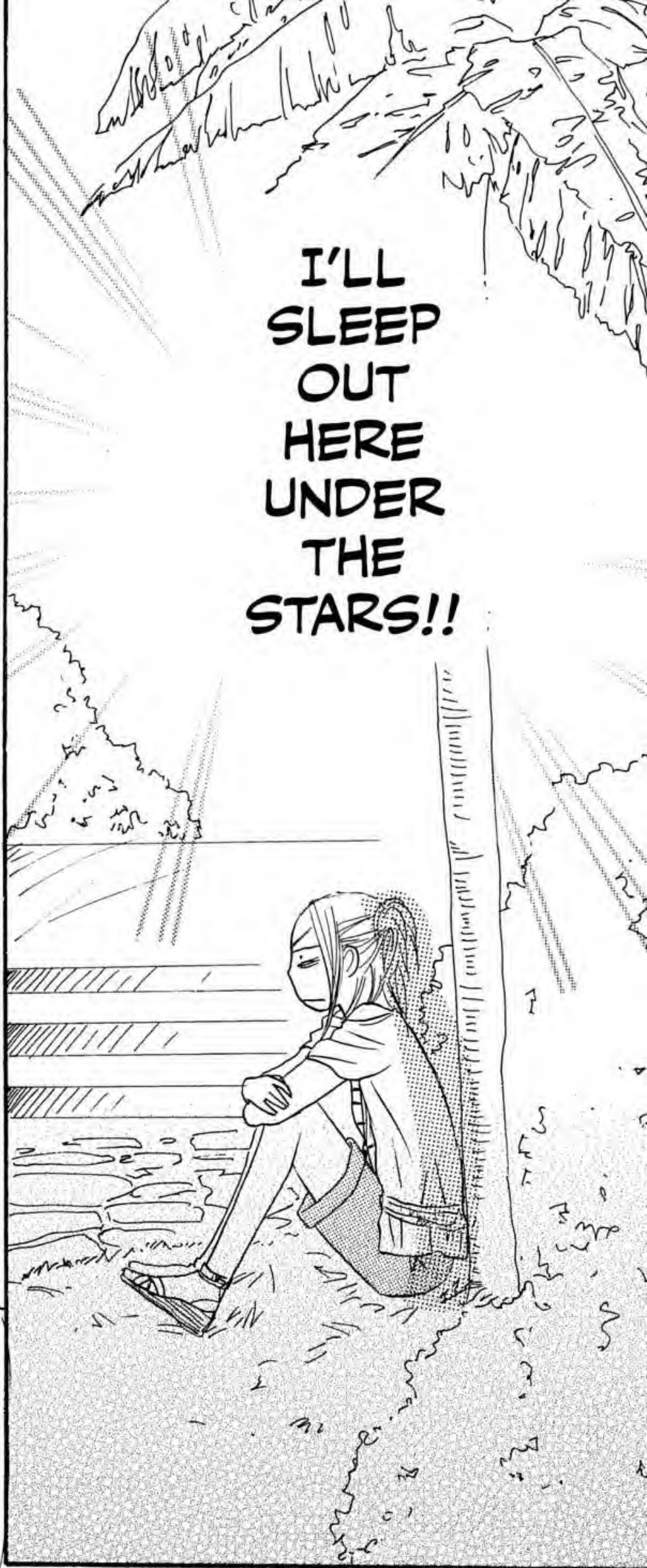
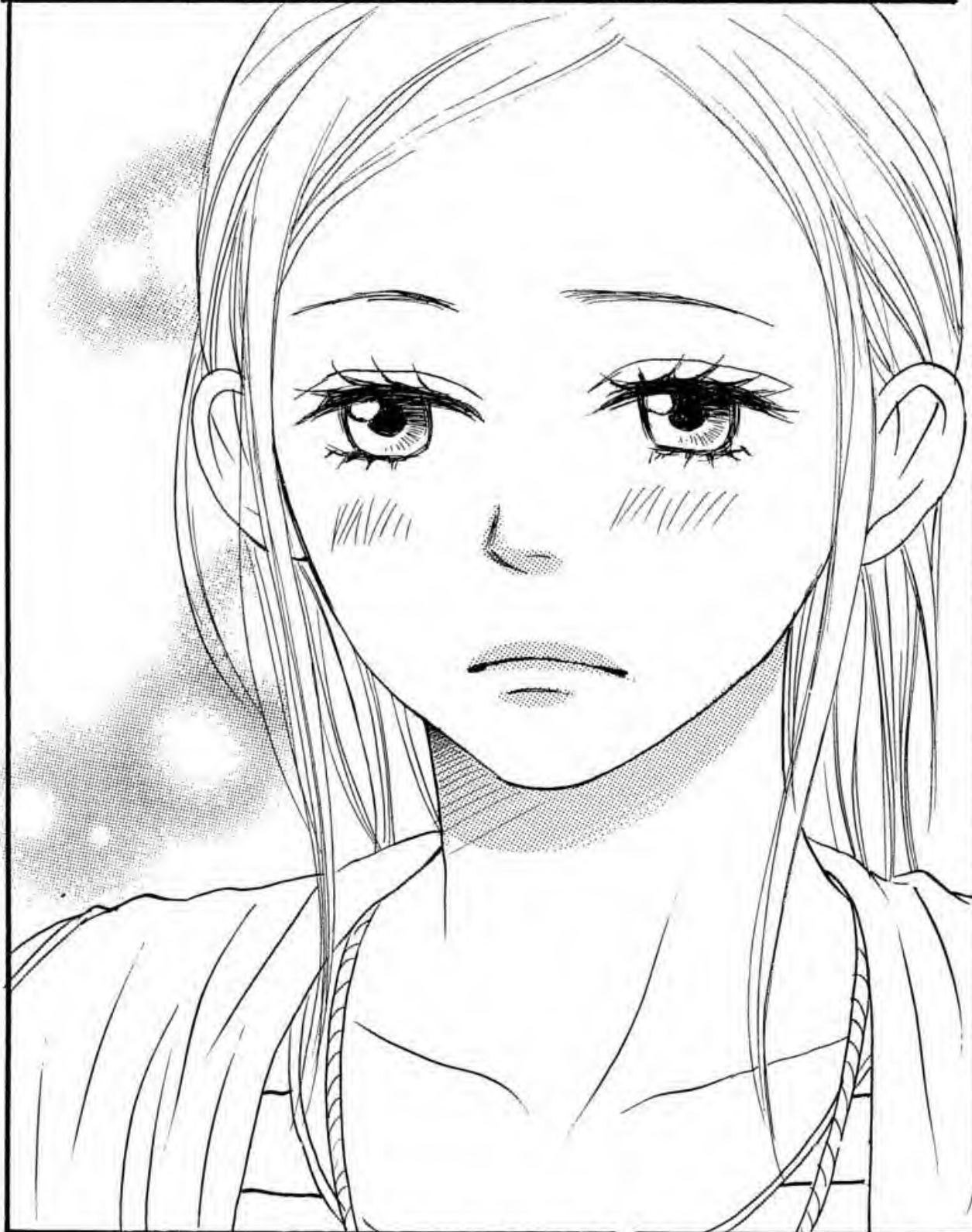


...OKAY.

...



I'LL
SLEEP
OUT
HERE
UNDER
THE
STARS!!

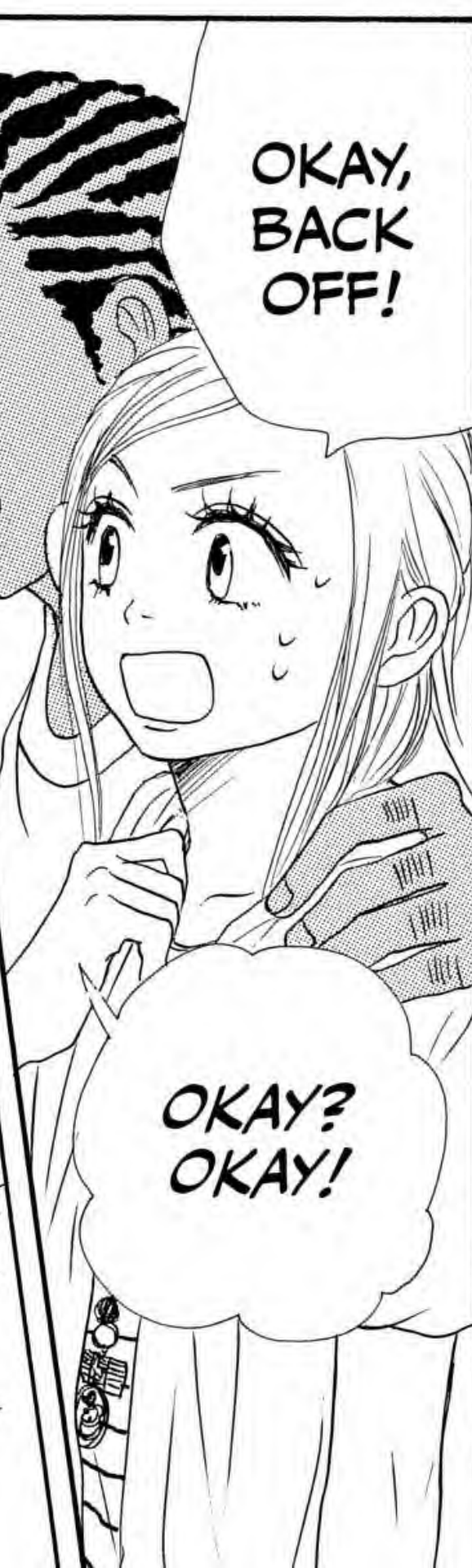
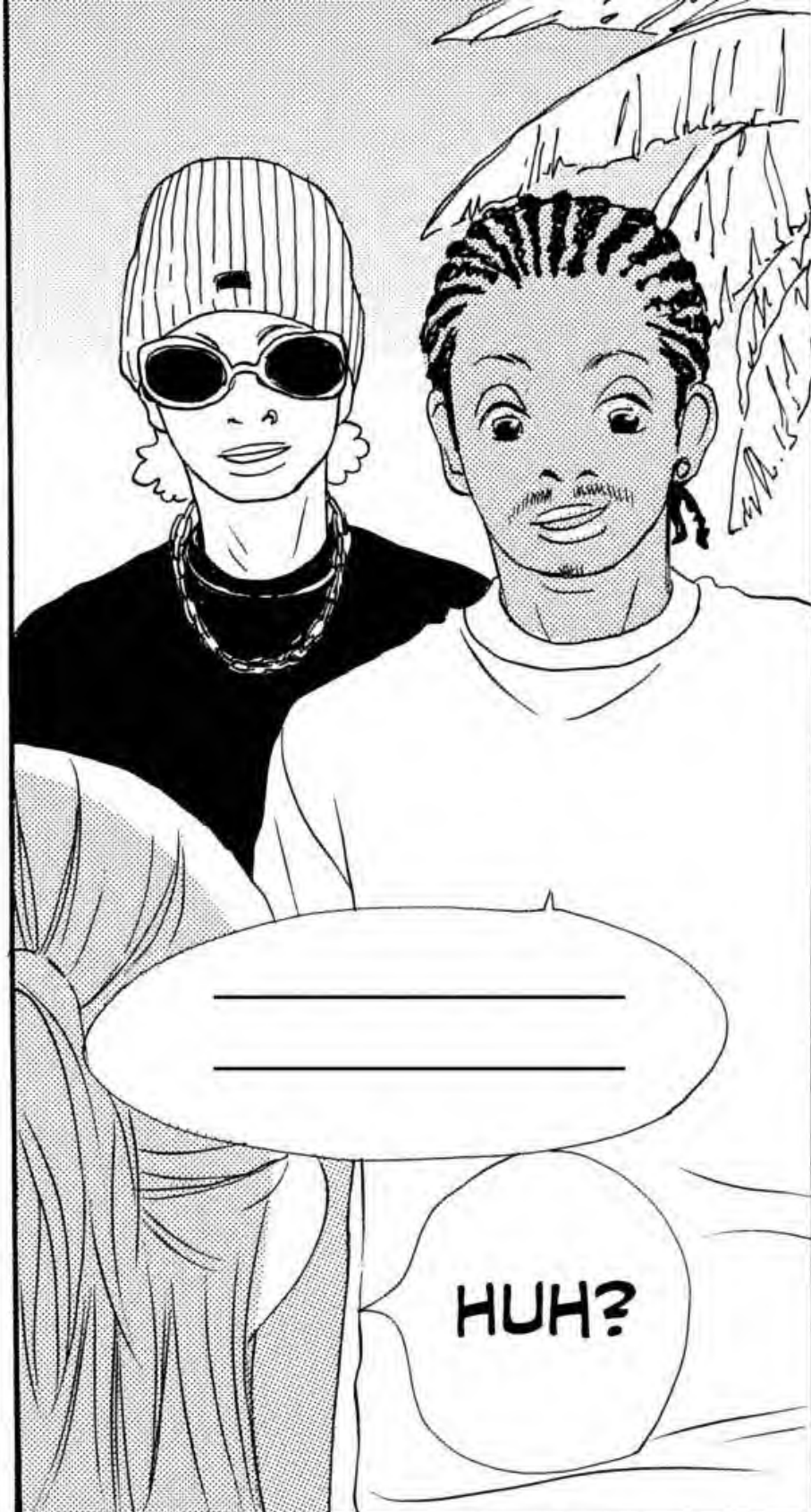
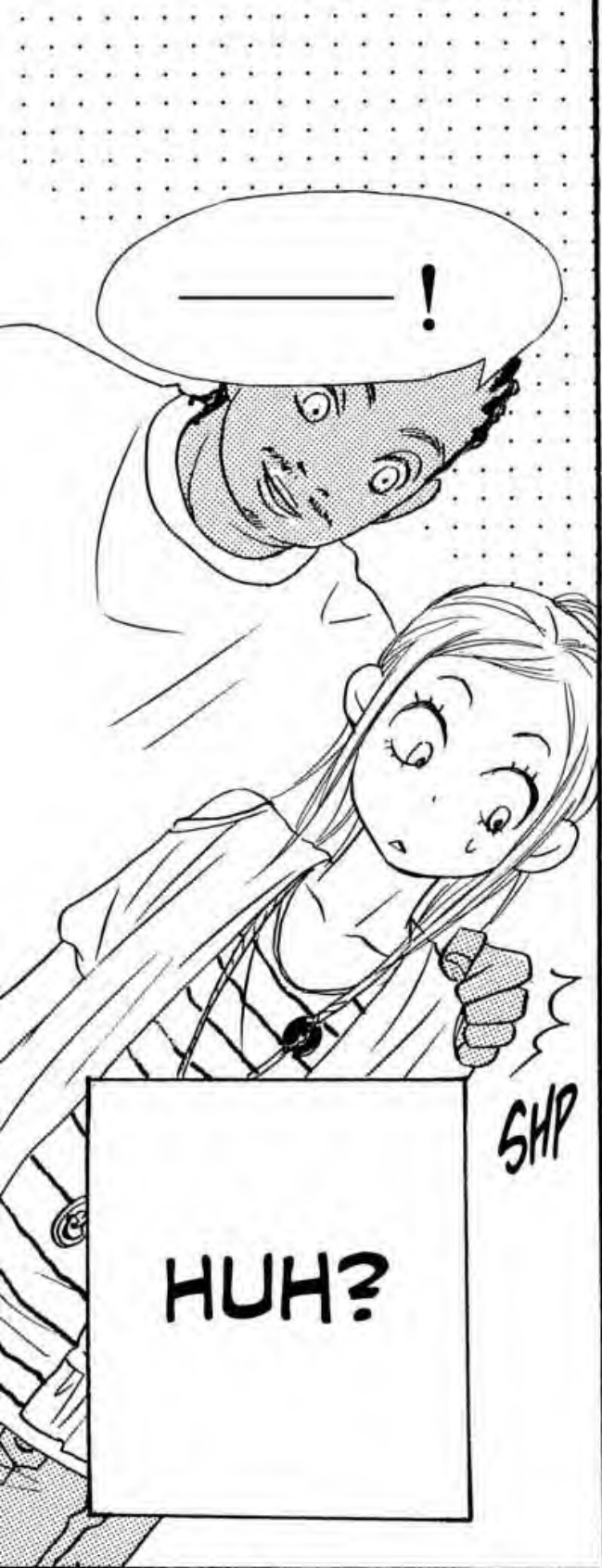


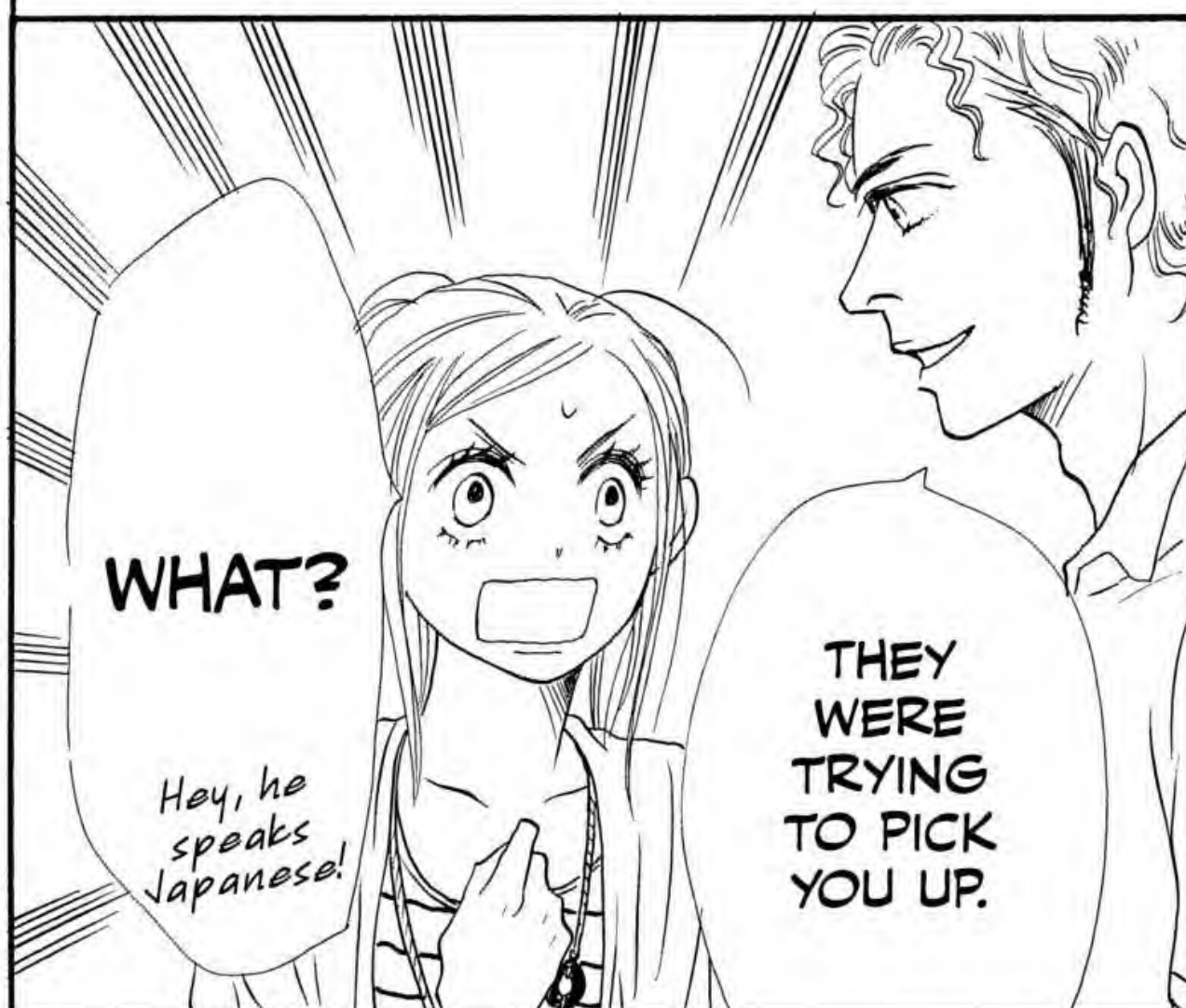
HI!

EEP!

WHAT'LL
I DO?

BUT
ÔTANI
WILL
THINK
I'M A
FREAK.





WHAT?

Hey, he speaks Japanese!

THEY WERE TRYING TO PICK YOU UP.



WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?



I ASKED HIM TO LEAVE ME ALONE!

'CAUSE KOIZUMI ...

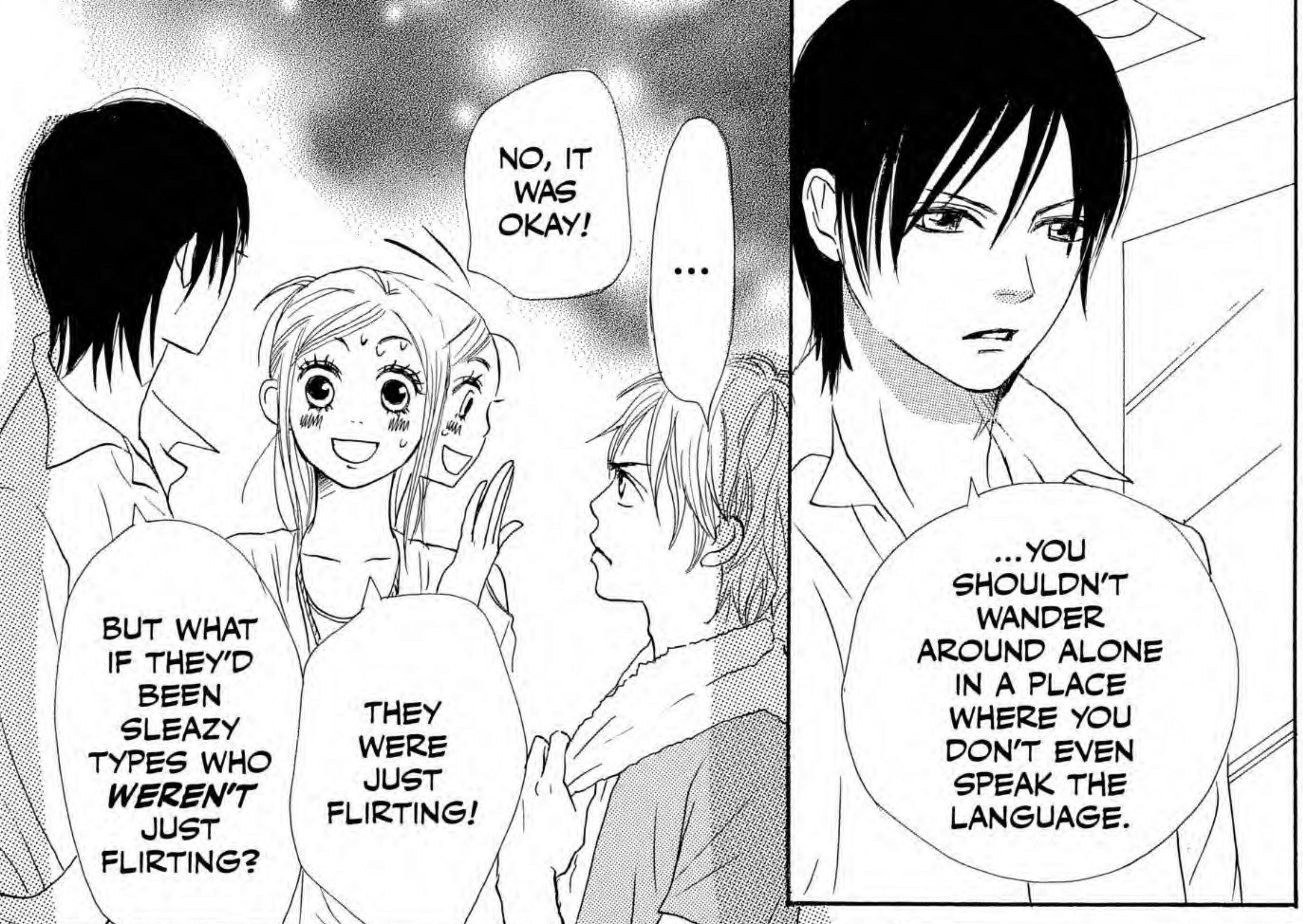
WHATEVER THE REASON...



SOME STRANGE GUYS WERE MACKING ON YOU?

WHY WEREN'T YOU WITH HER, ÔTANI-KUN?





NO, IT
WAS
OKAY!

...

BUT WHAT
IF THEY'D
BEEN
SLEAZY
TYPES WHO
WEREN'T
JUST
FLIRTING?

THEY
WERE
JUST
FLIRTING!

...YOU
SHOULDN'T
WANDER
AROUND ALONE
IN A PLACE
WHERE YOU
DON'T EVEN
SPEAK THE
LANGUAGE.



IT'S
FINE.
JUST
TAKE
CARE.



ÔTANI...

WE
DIDN'T
MEAN TO
CAUSE
ANY
TROUBLE!



I'M
SORRY!

WELL...

ARGH...

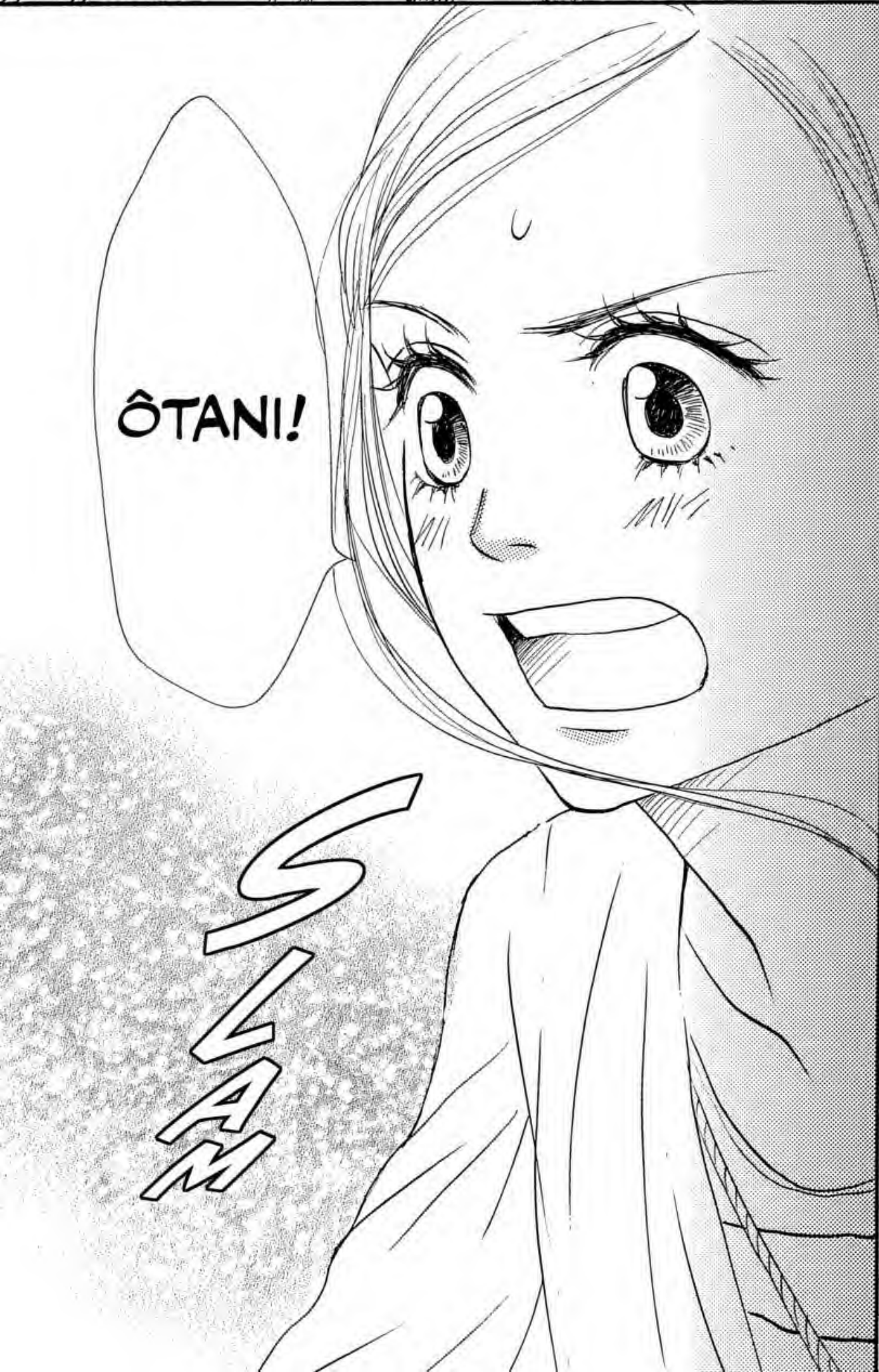
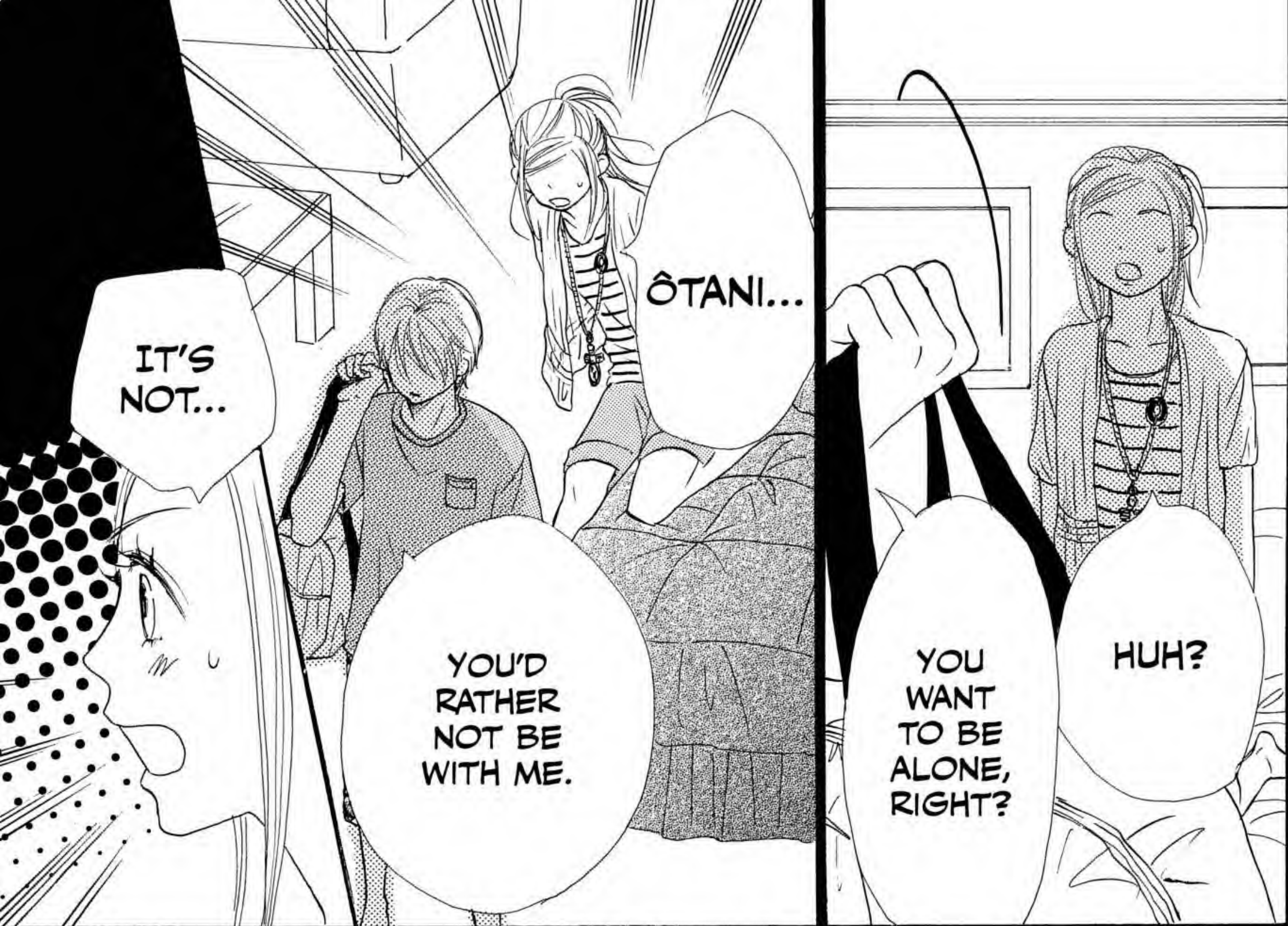
...

H
M
P
H

THE AIR
IN THIS
ROOM
FEELS
HEAVY.

I'M
OUTTA
HERE.

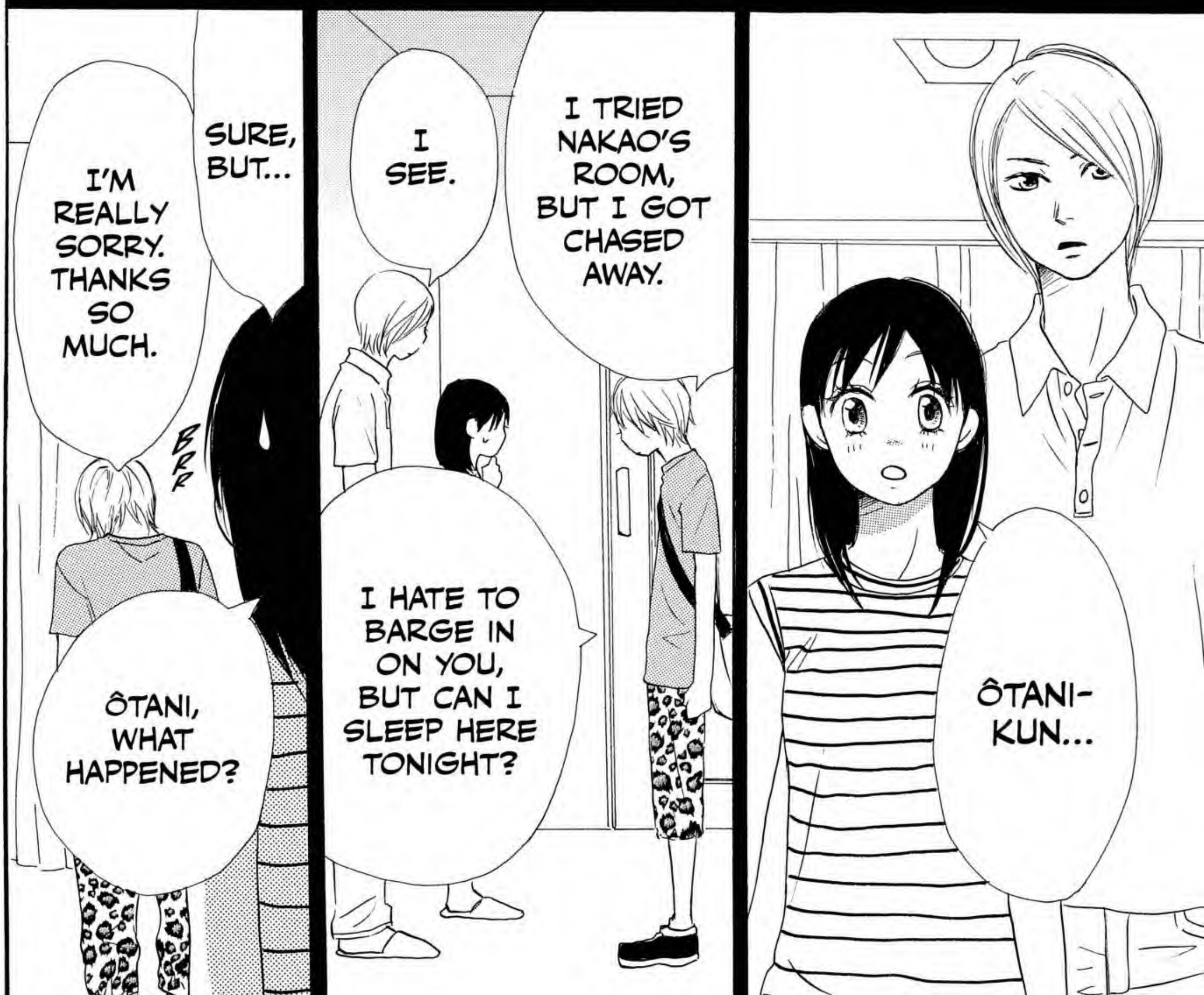
ER,
ÔTANI...





ÔTANI...

Ding Dong



I'M
REALLY
SORRY.
THANKS
SO
MUCH.

SURE,
BUT...

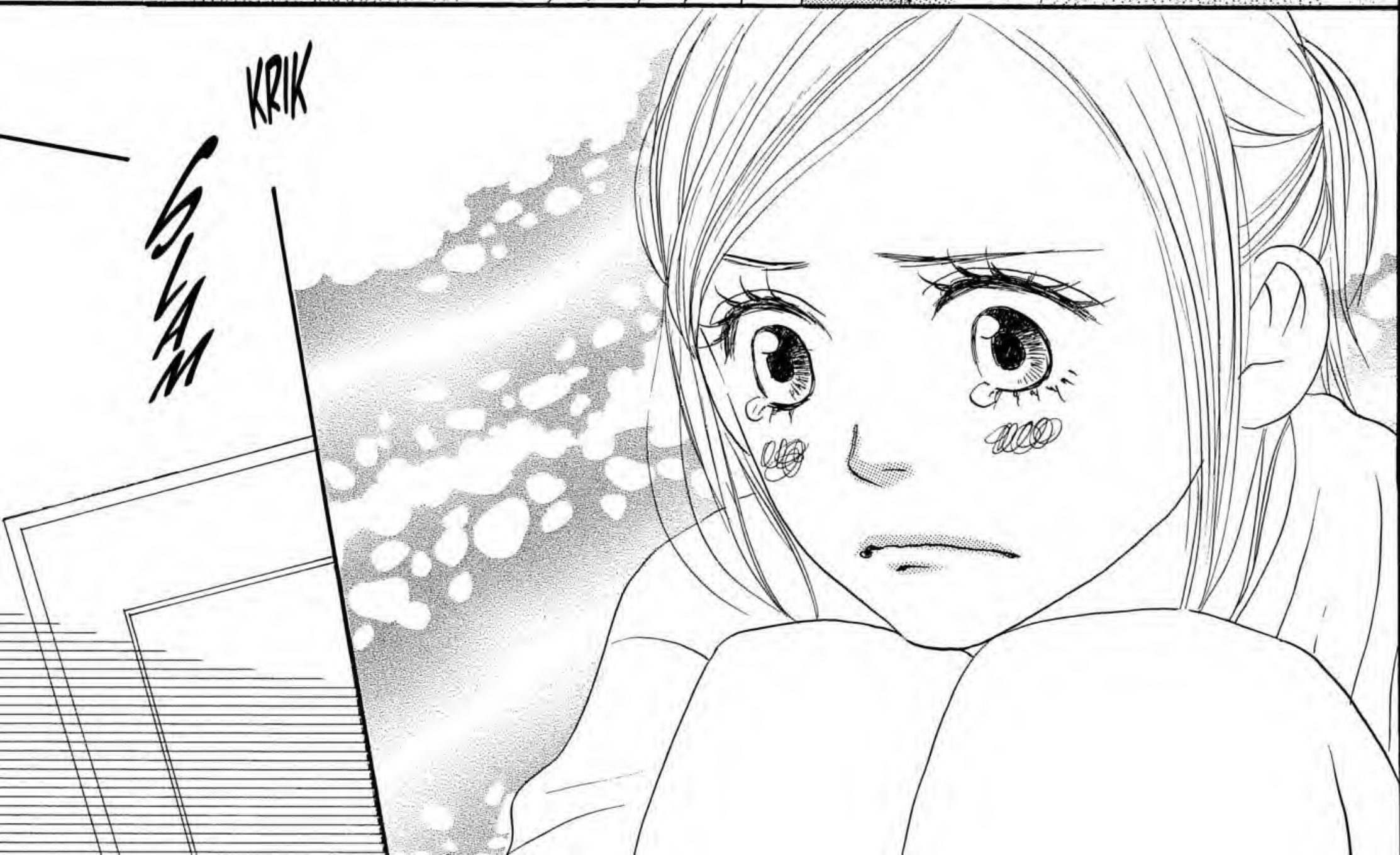
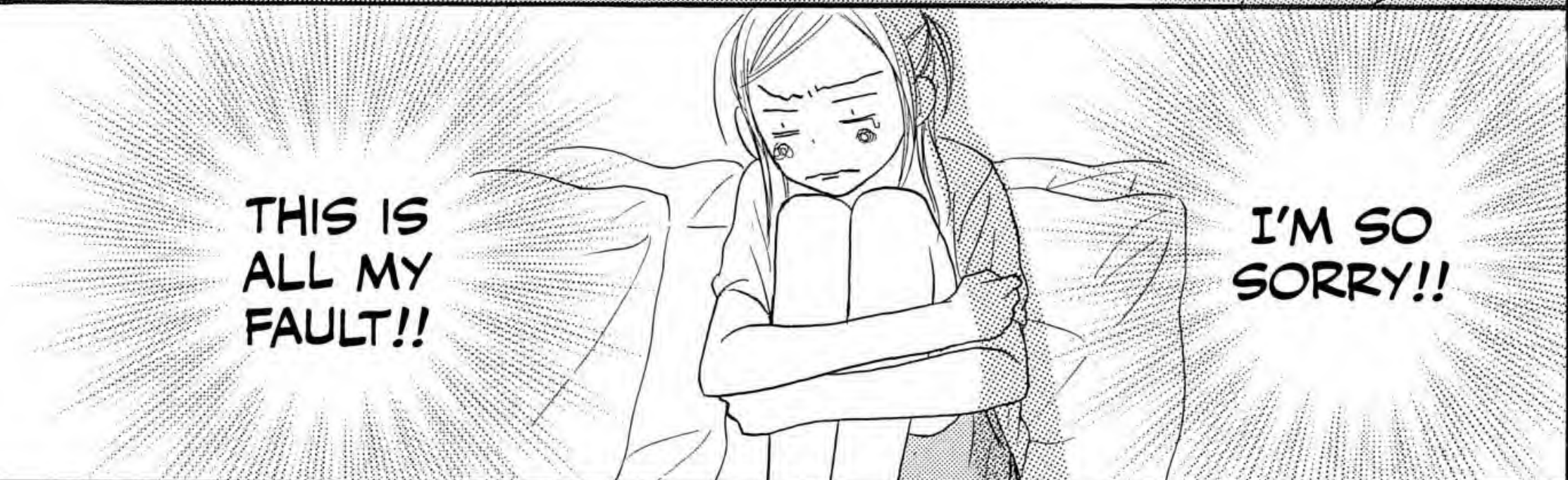
I
SEE.

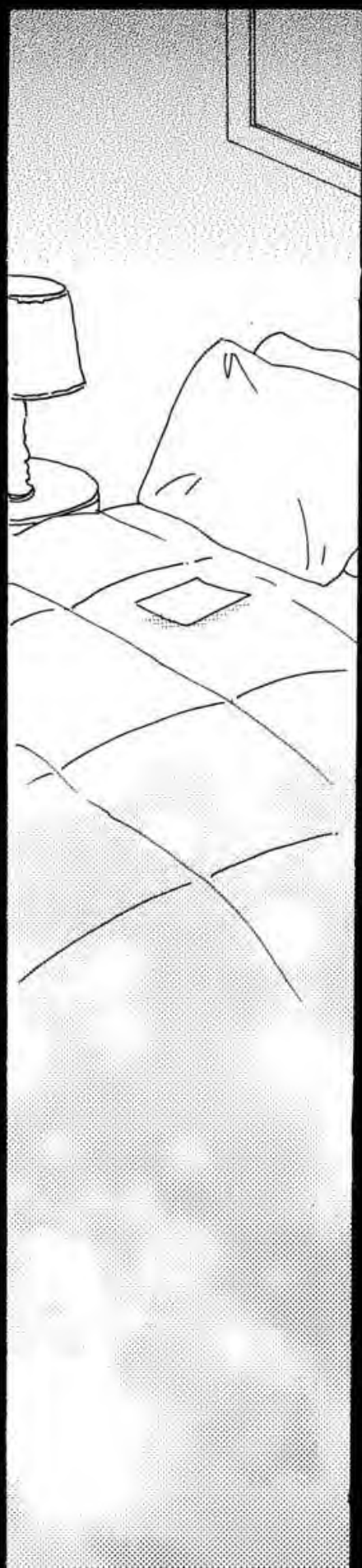
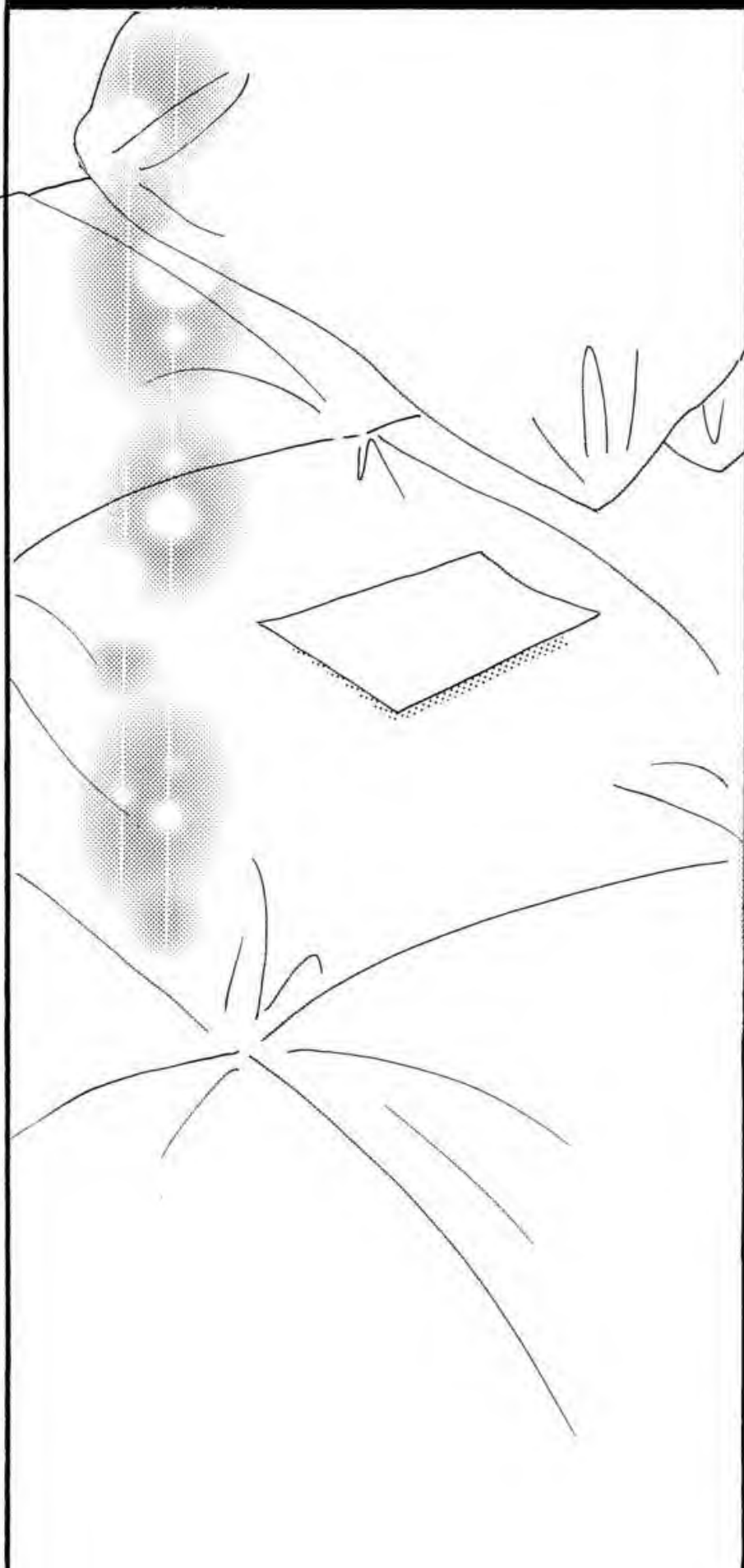
I TRIED
NAKAO'S
ROOM,
BUT I GOT
CHASED
AWAY.

I HATE TO
BARGE IN
ON YOU,
BUT CAN I
SLEEP HERE
TONIGHT?

ÔTANI,
WHAT
HAPPENED?

ÔTANI-
KUN...







I'M
SORRY,
ÔTANI.

*I'm
sorry,
Mighty.*



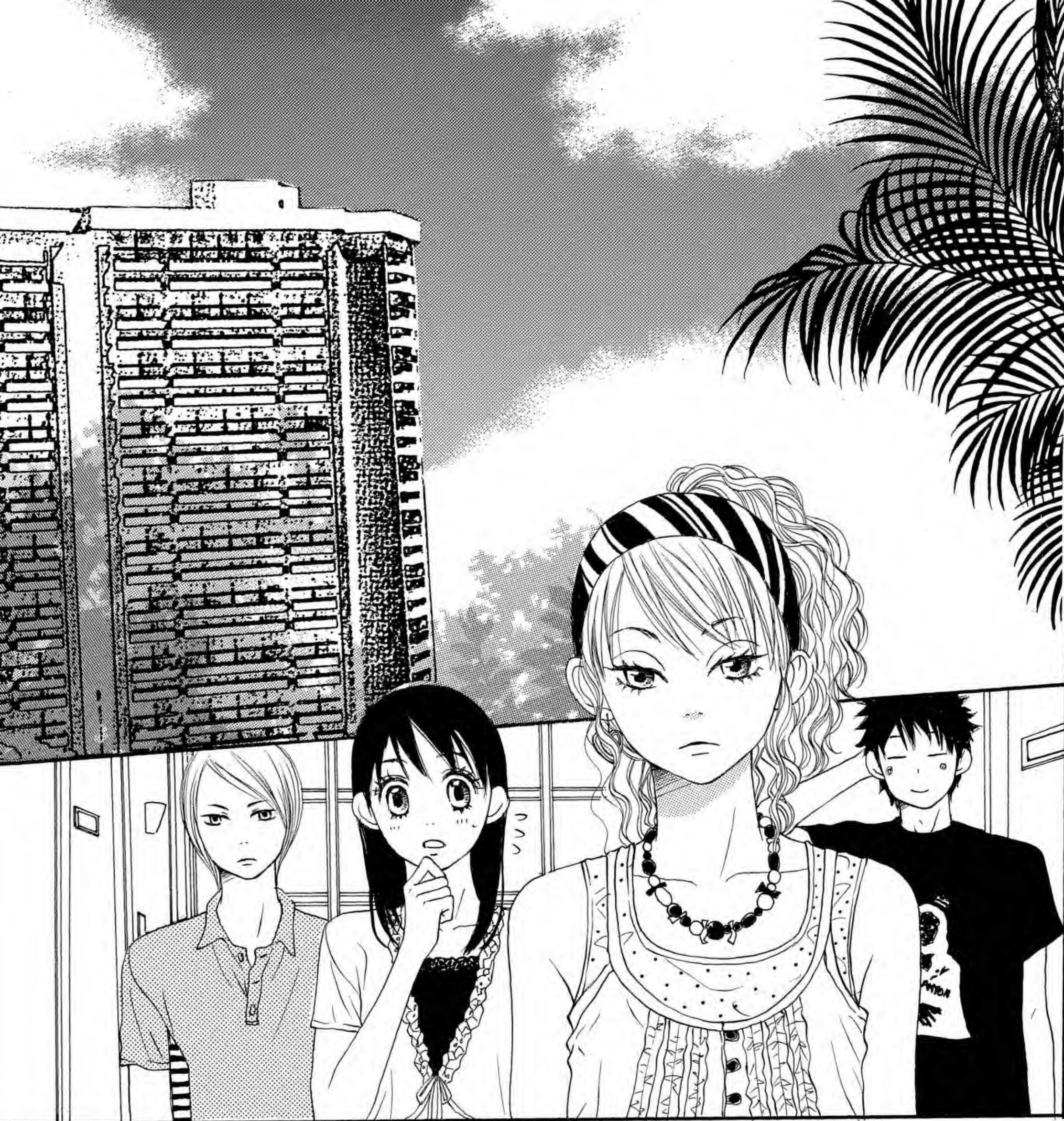


I'M **REALLY** SORRY.



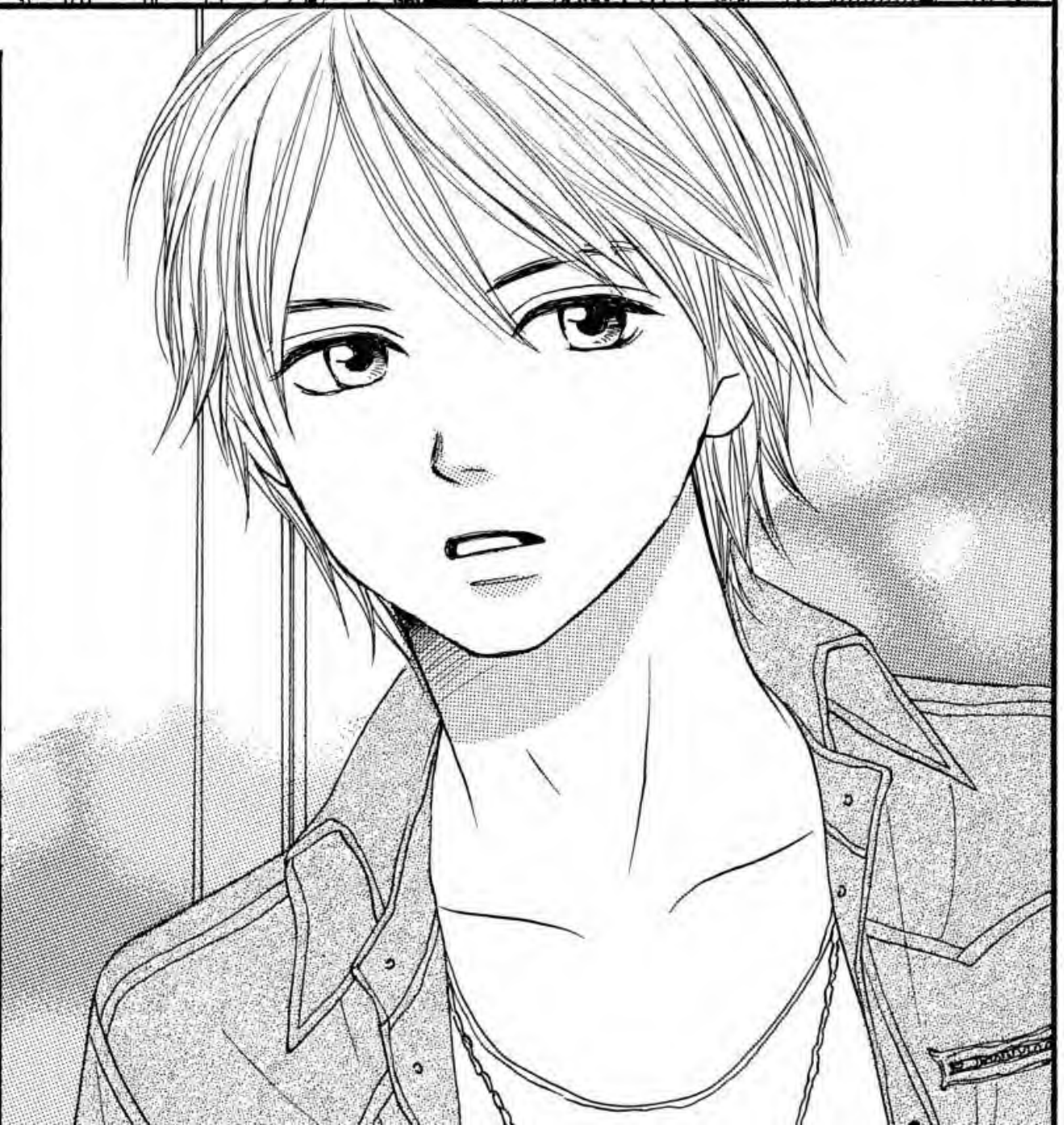
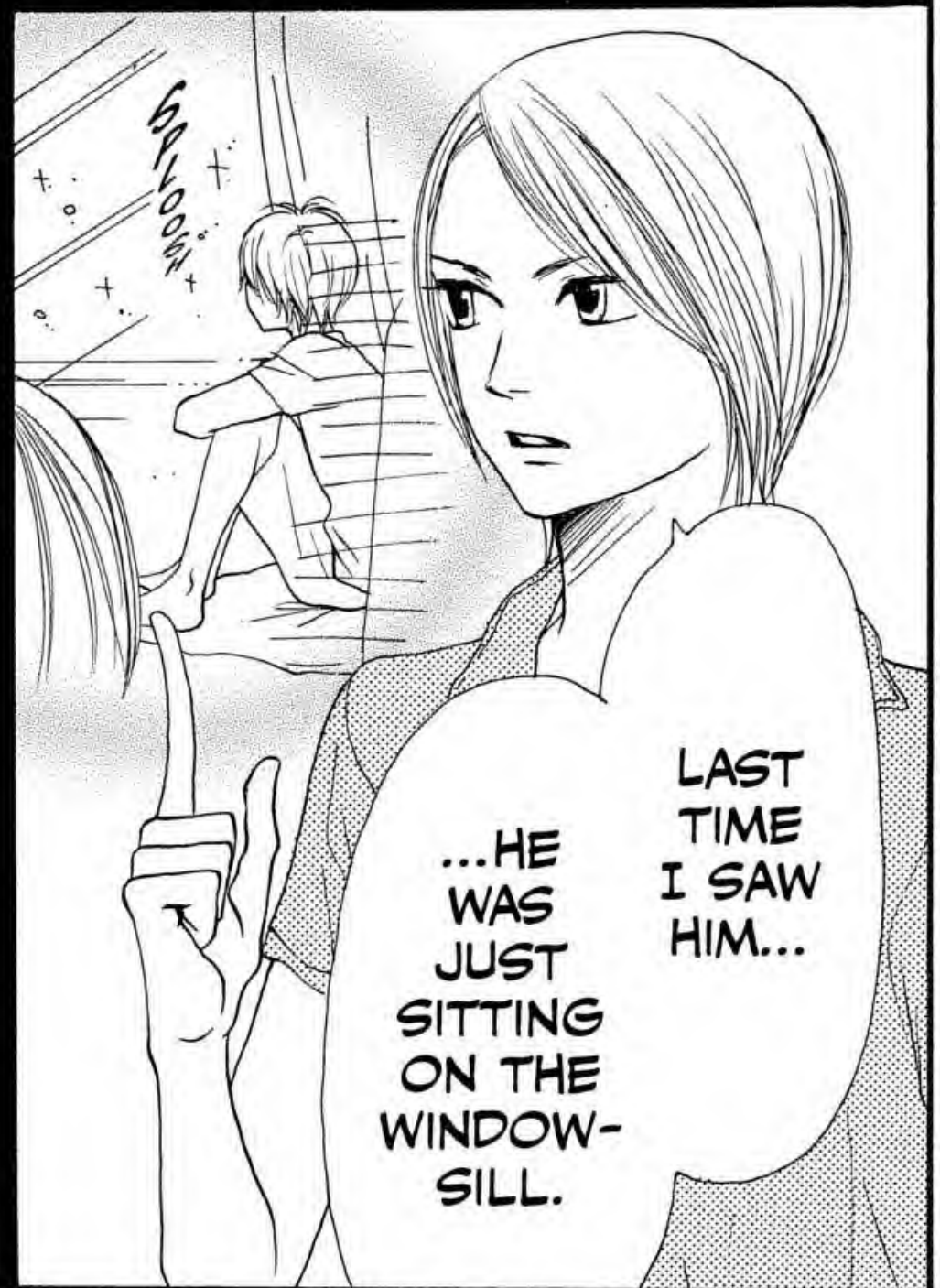
FORGET
ABOUT IT.

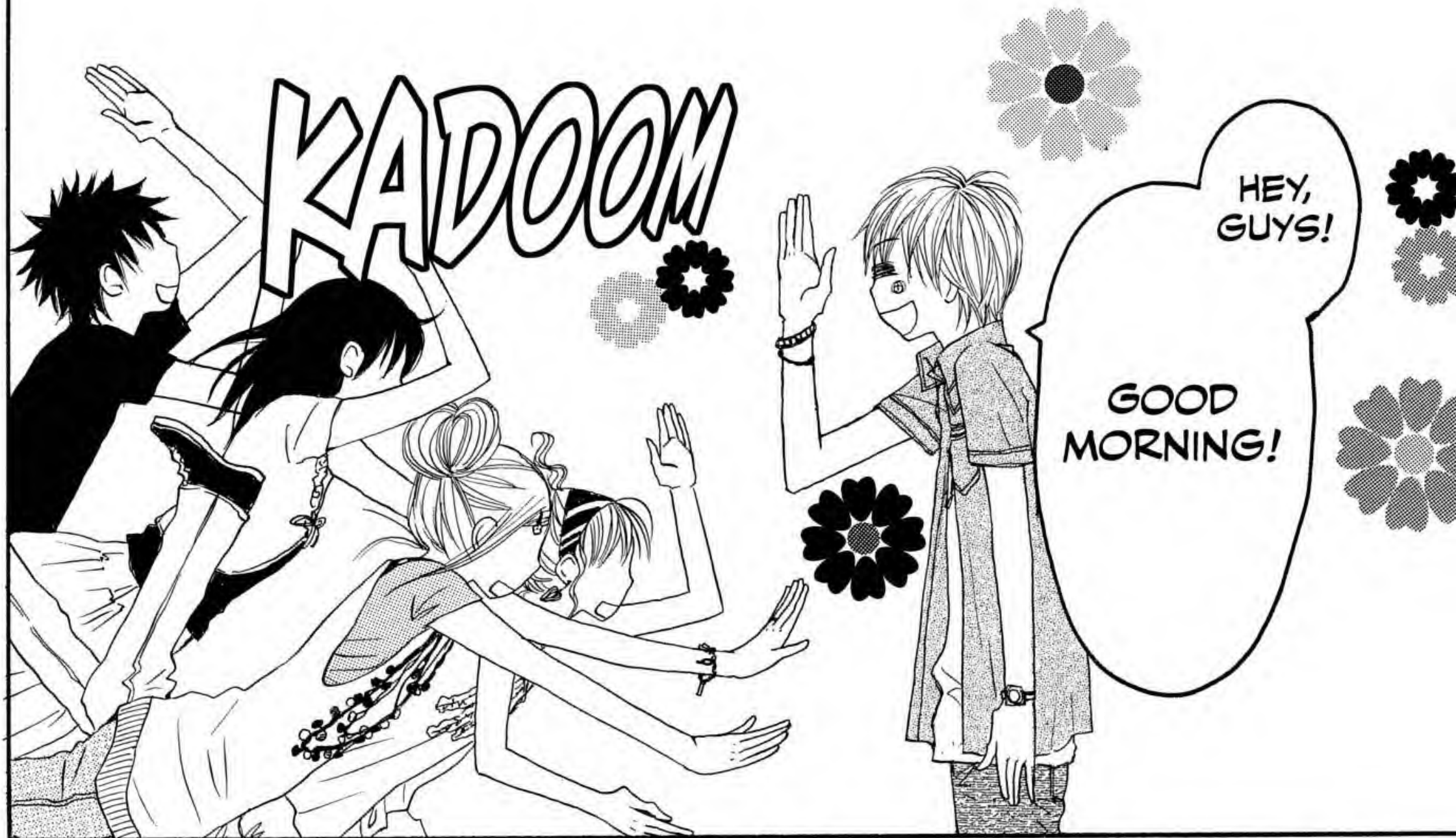




CHAPTER 58







HEY,
GUYS!

GOOD
MORNING!



SWEET!

THERE'S
A PLACE
DOWN-
STAIRS.

WHICH
WAY IS
BREAK-
FAST?



OH
BOY...

OR
SLEEP
DEPRI-
VATION?

IS
IT AN
ACT?

WHO'S
THE
PERKY
GUY?

UM...

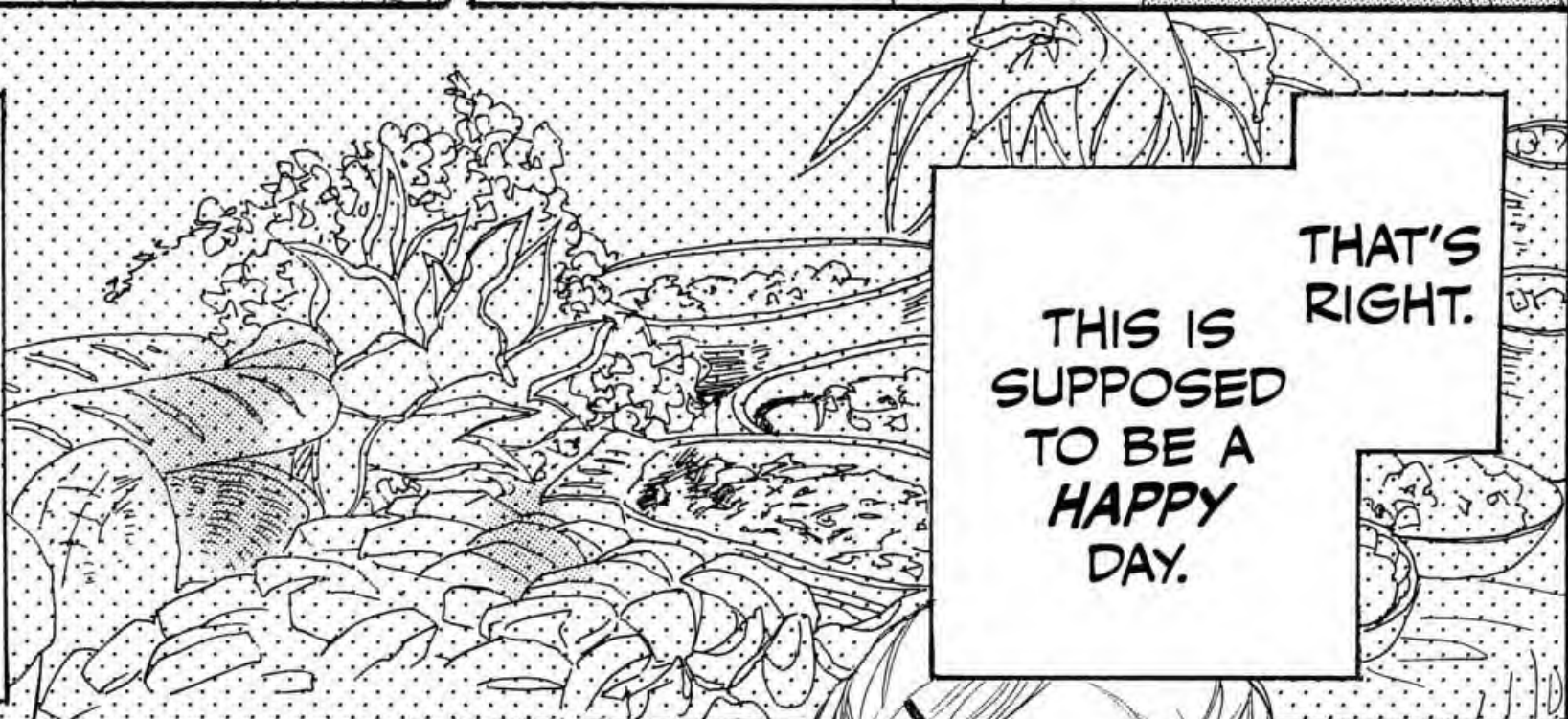
'Morning.

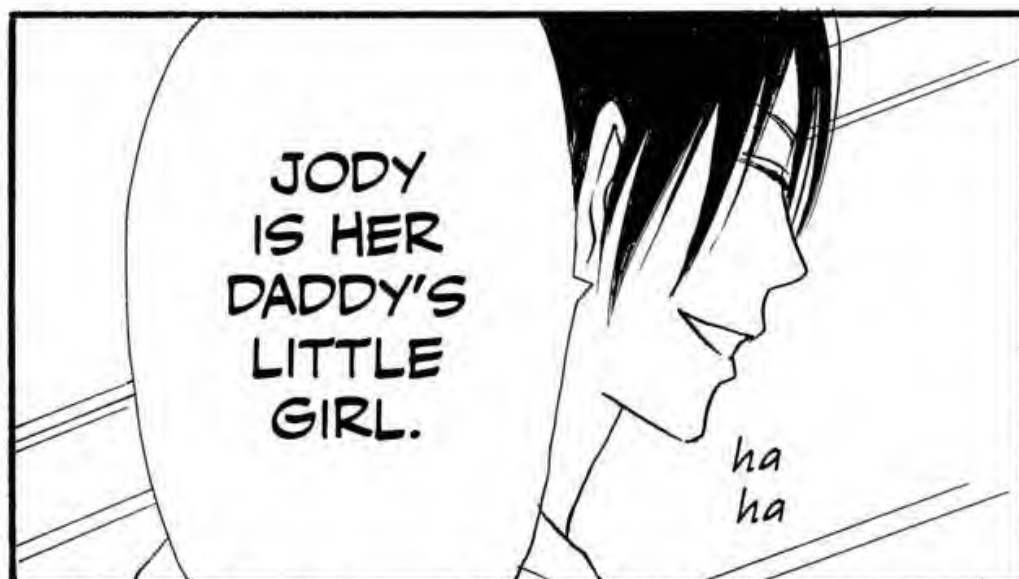
'Morning.



THANKS!

I'M
GOING
ON
AHEAD!







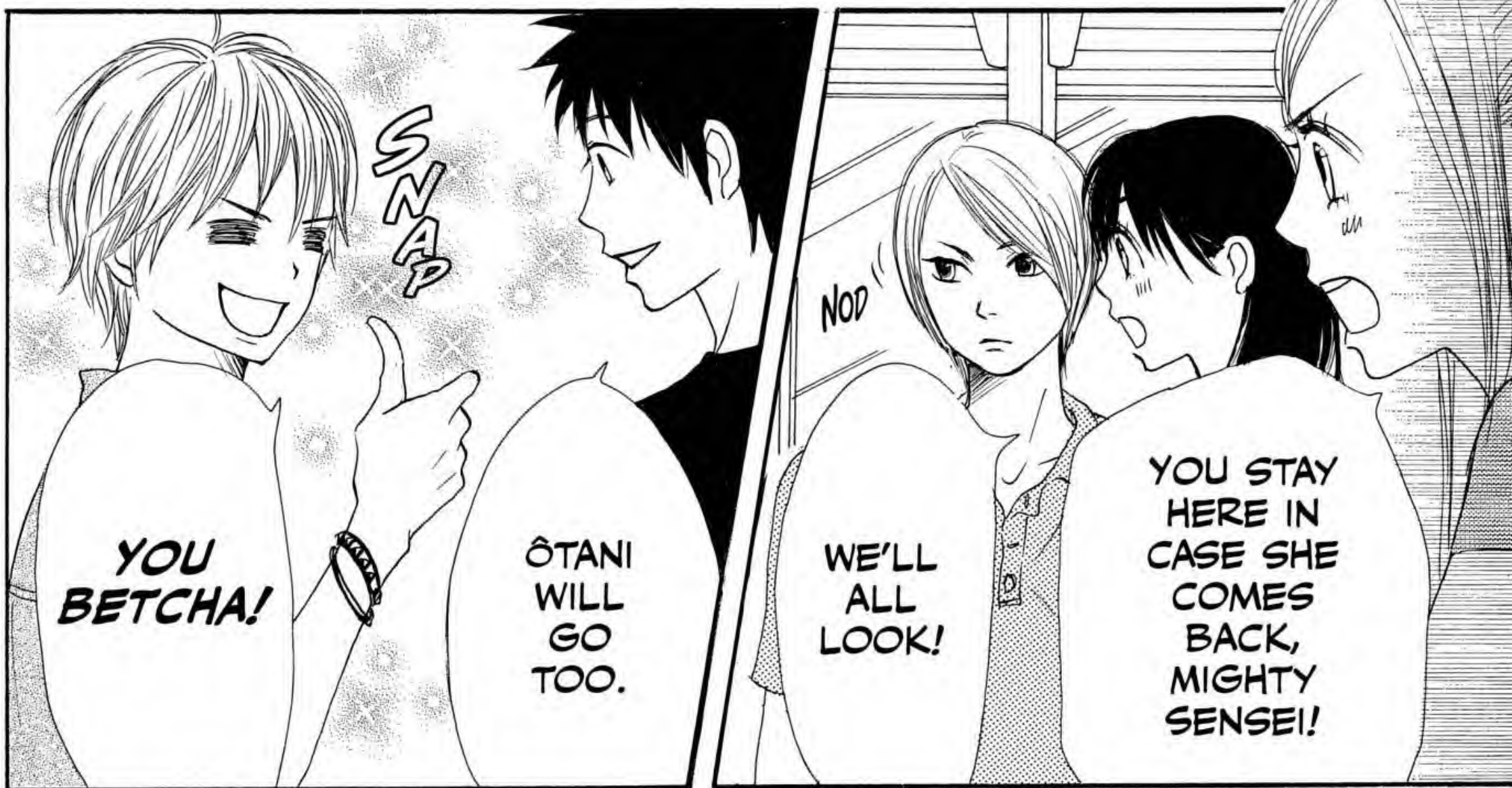


IF IT'S
CANCELED,
WE'LL HAVE
COME FOR
NOTHING.

WE CAME
FOR YOUR
WEDDING.

SHE'S
RIGHT.
WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING,
MIGHTY?

HUH?



**YOU
BETCHA!**

**S
N
A
P**

ÔTANI
WILL
GO
TOO.

NOD

WE'LL
ALL
LOOK!

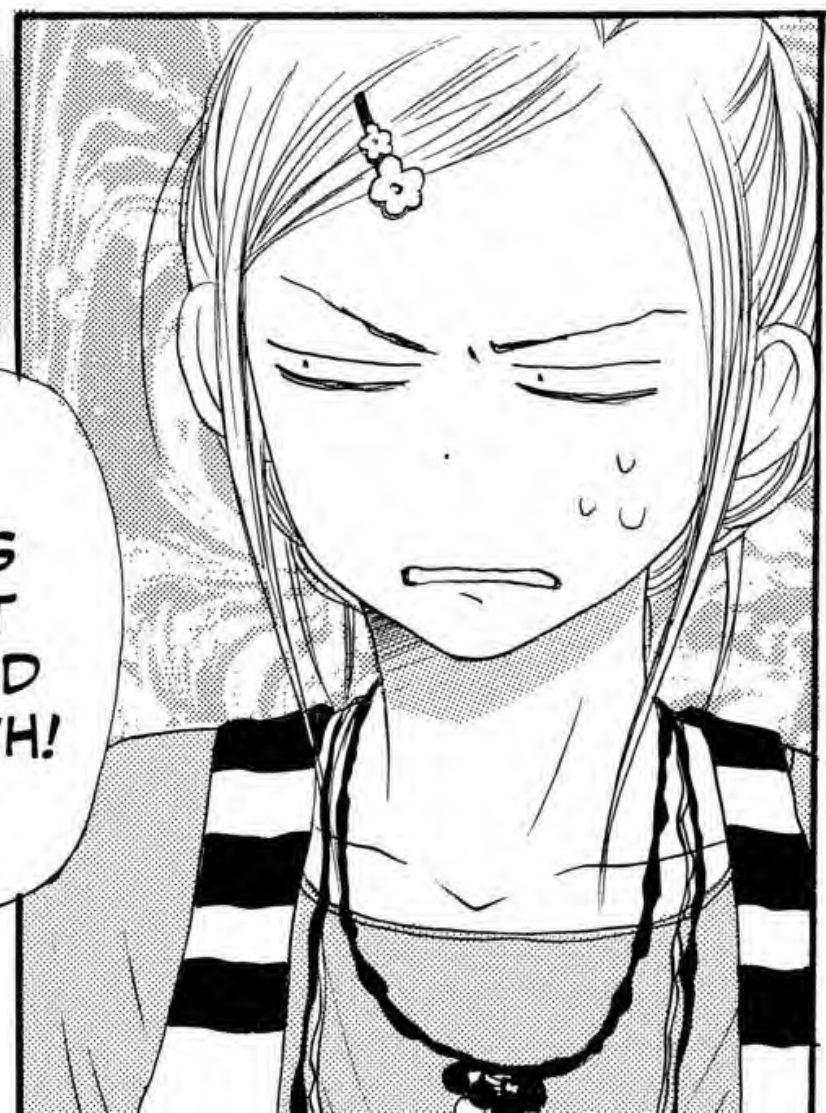
YOU STAY
HERE IN
CASE SHE
COMES
BACK,
MIGHTY
SENSEI!

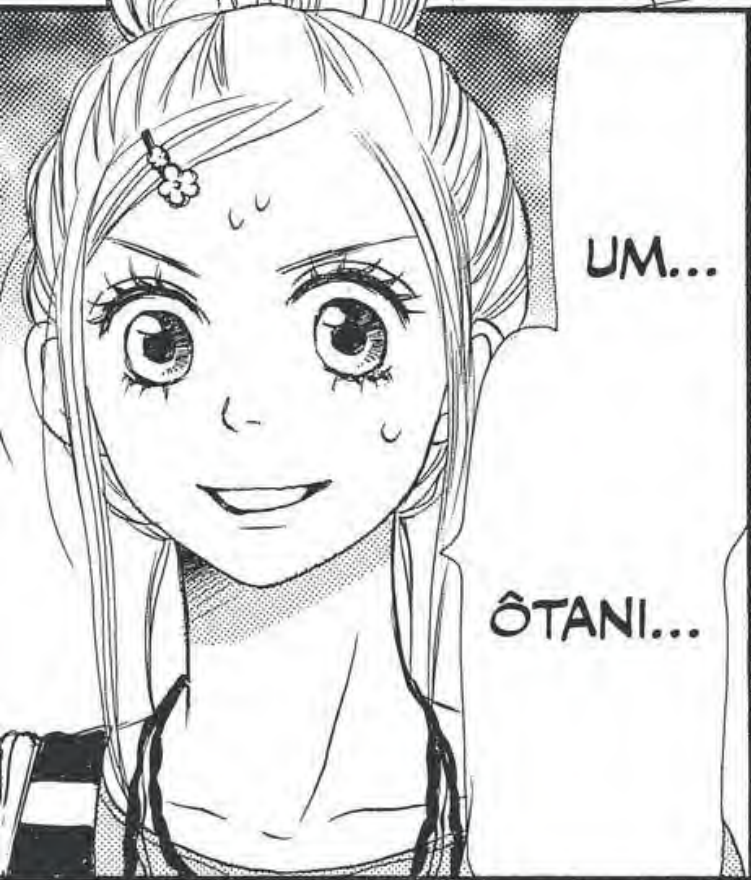


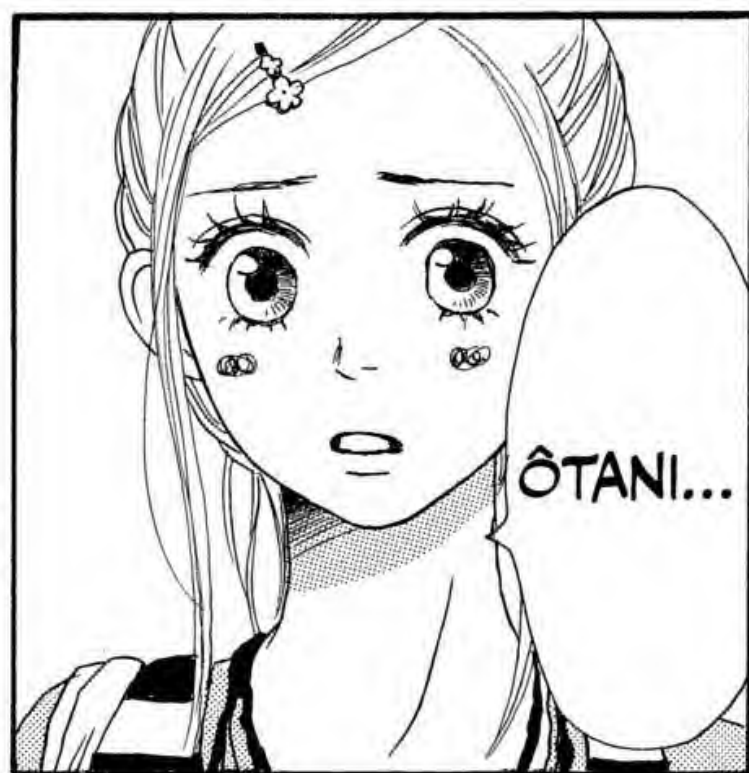
UM,
OKAY.

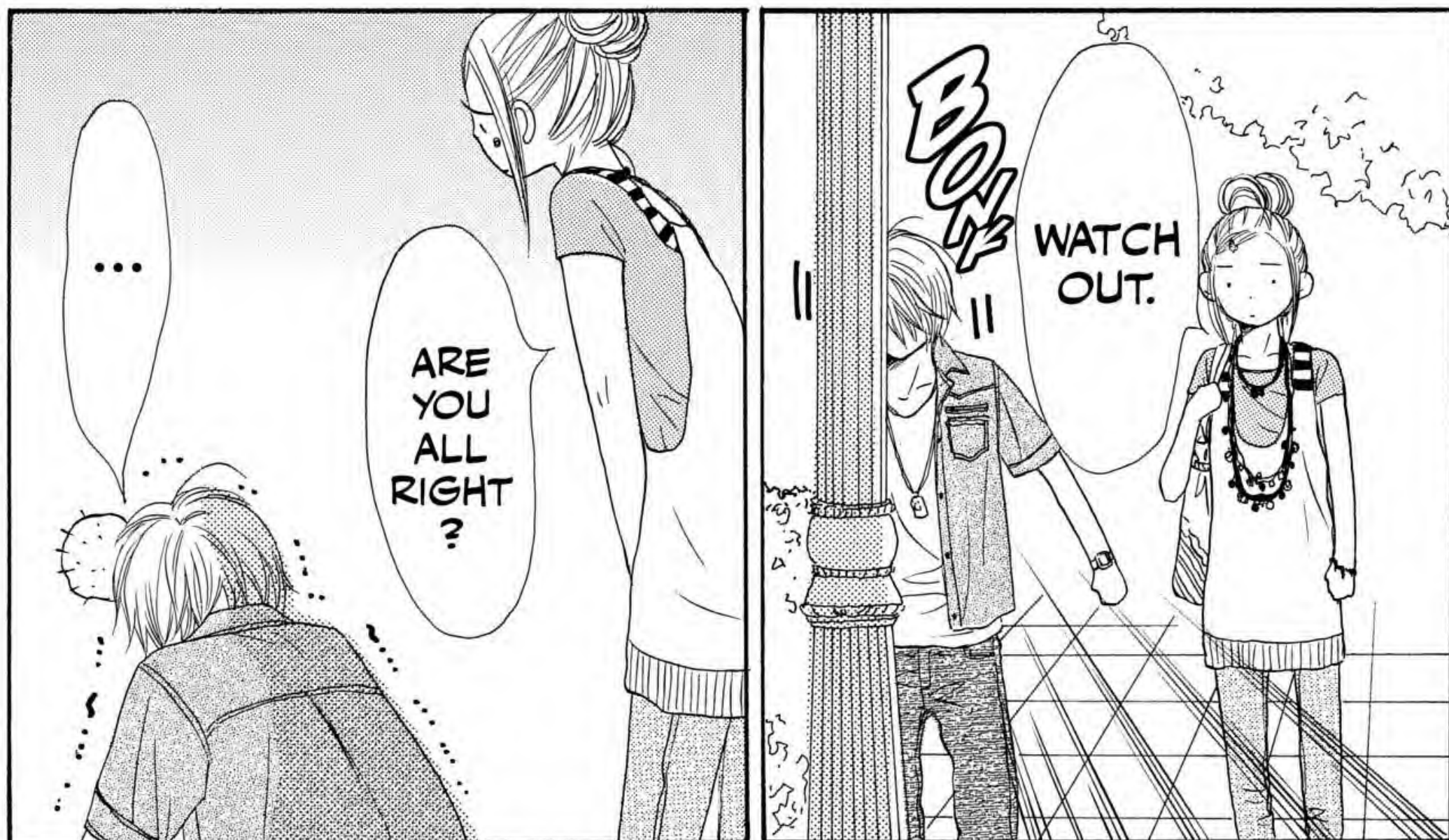
...

LET'S
SPLIT
UP AND
SEARCH!











UH-
HUH.

WE'RE
GOING
TO FIND
JODY-
SAN,
RIGHT?

LET'S
GO!!



Ô...
Ôtani...

CRIPES!!



I'M
SORRY,
ÔTANI.



REALLY.

IT'S NOT
LIKE I
DIDN'T
WANT TO
BE WITH
YOU.



HI!



I DUNNO.

MAN, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THE ROADS. HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS?



I FOUND OUT WHERE JODY'S FATHER IS STAYING.

LET'S CHECK IT OUT.

HUH?



JACK?

PLEASE GET IN! WE'LL LOOK TOGETHER!



YOU'RE SPEAKING KANSAI LIKE A PRO!

NAH, I JUST PICKED UP A FEW WORDS.

GEEZ, YOUR JAPANESE IS PERFECT.

REALLY?

HEY!
JAPANESE
RAPPER
UMI-BOUZ!

JODY-
SAN...

IF WE
DON'T
FIND HER
SOON, THE
WEDDING
WILL BE...

MIGHTY IS
HEADED
THIS WAY
TOO.

REALLY?

chikka chikka

ARE YOU
UMIBÔZU
FANS?

HE'S
A REAL
SUPER-
STAR,
HUH?

UMI-
BÔZU
?

♪ Hello,
everybody! ♪

!!

THAT'S AWESOME!!

HE'S
GOT
TONS
OF FANS
HERE.

YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME!

WOW...

I'M
CRAZY
ABOUT
HIM
TOO.

PAF

...



I
GUESS
I HAD
THAT
COMING.

HUH?

OH.



AFTER
WE FIND
JODY, I
HOPE YOU
REALLY
ENJOY
YOUR-
SELVES
HERE.

ISN'T
IT A
GREAT
PLACE?

HUH?

OH!
YES!



THIS
IS YOUR
GRADUATION
TRIP,
RIGHT?

VROOM

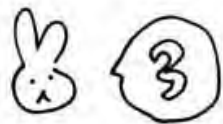


THAT'S
WHAT
MIGHTY
TOLD ME.

GRADUA-
TION
TRIP?



IS THIS
YOUR
FIRST
TIME
HERE?

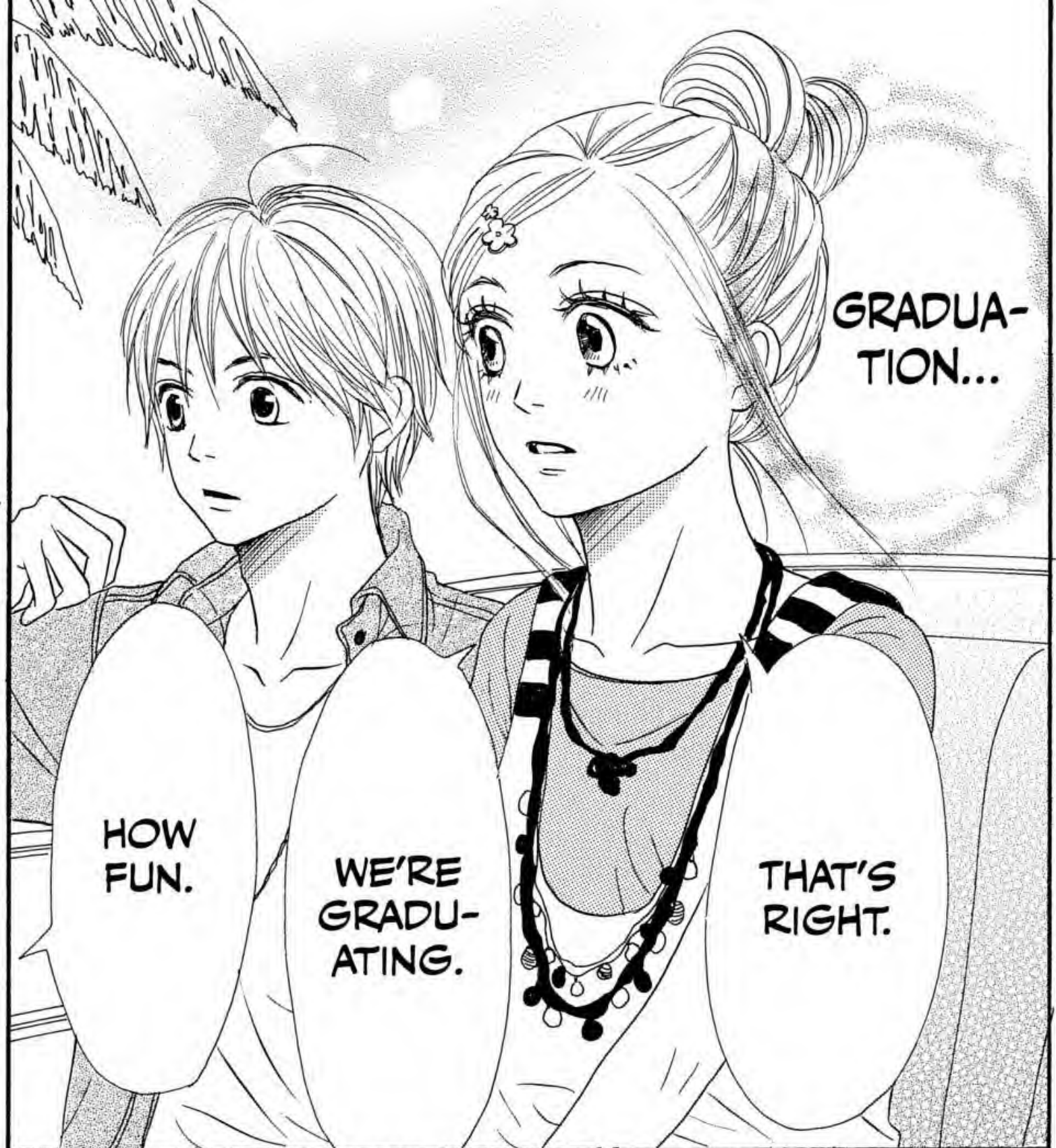


Anyway...
I've returned to my usual work schedule. Things were so hectic during the summer that it all seems leisurely now. I went out and bought some cookbooks and stuff and started cooking seriously! ♡
Well, sort of.

I made chopped burdock and frozen yogurt, then I got bored. I'm not much of an eater, so I guess it was a bad idea for a hobby. I'll leave the cooking to my mom.

Tonight's dinner was oden hot pot, chop suey, miso soup and tempura!! Isn't that way too much? And what a strange combination of dishes!

She serves miso soup with everything, even stew.



GRADUA-
TION...

HOW
FUN.

WE'RE
GRADU-
ATING.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



ANY TIME
WE'RE ON
A TRIP
TOGETHER...



ALL
WEIRD.

...IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE FUN,
BUT IT
ENDS UP
LIKE THIS.



STOP
THE
CAR.

JACK,
STOP.

WIP
IF
JODY'S
NOT
THERE...



OH
WELL.

IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT.

WE'RE
ALMOST
AT THE
HOTEL.



OKAY.

REALLY?
OKAY,
GOOD
LUCK!

WE'LL
GET OUT
AND
SEARCH
AROUND
HERE.

WHAT
IS IT?





THEN
LET'S
GO
FIND
ONE.

UM...
YEAH.



ÔTANI?

YOU
WANTED
TO SEE A
WEDDING,
RIGHT?

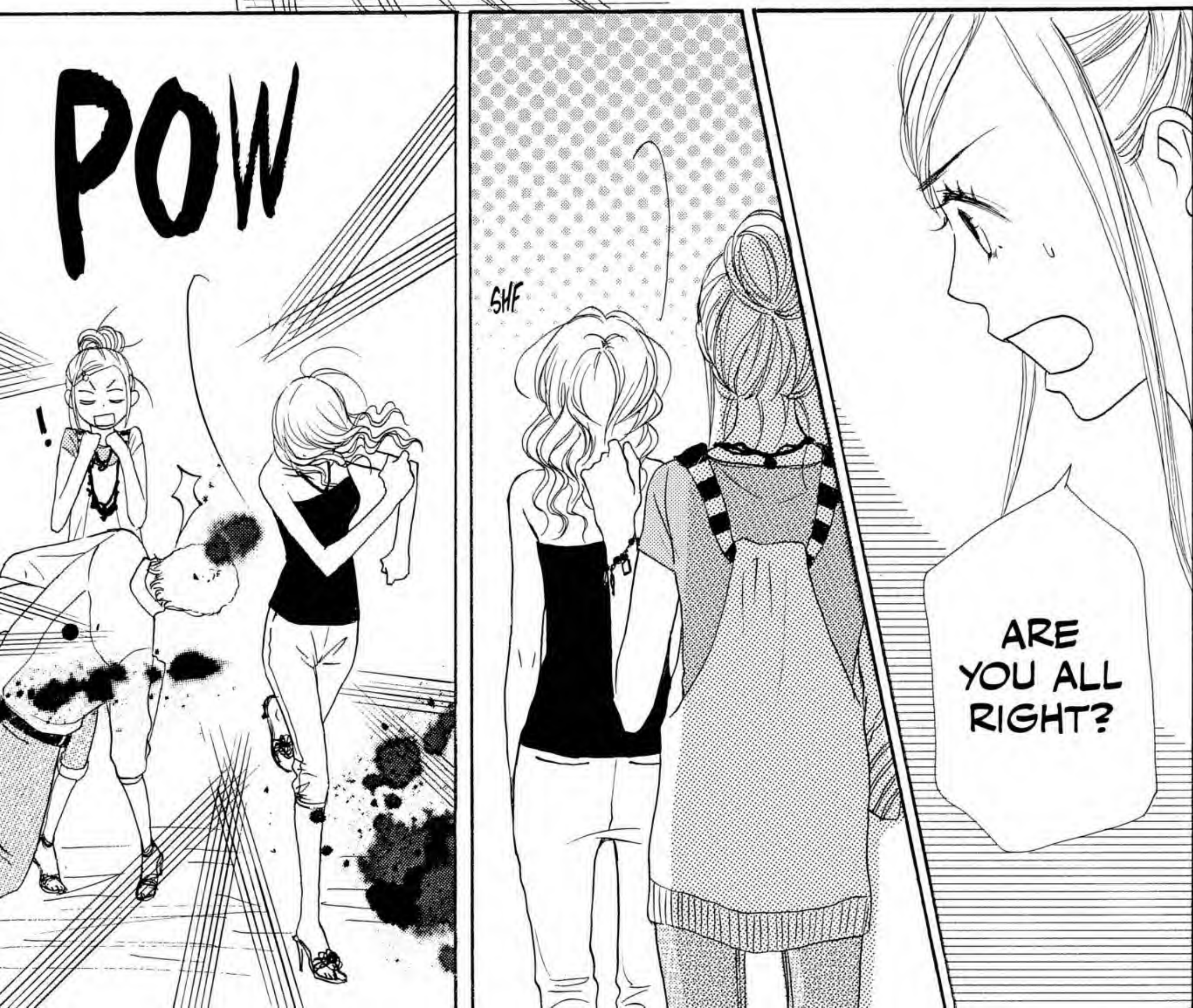
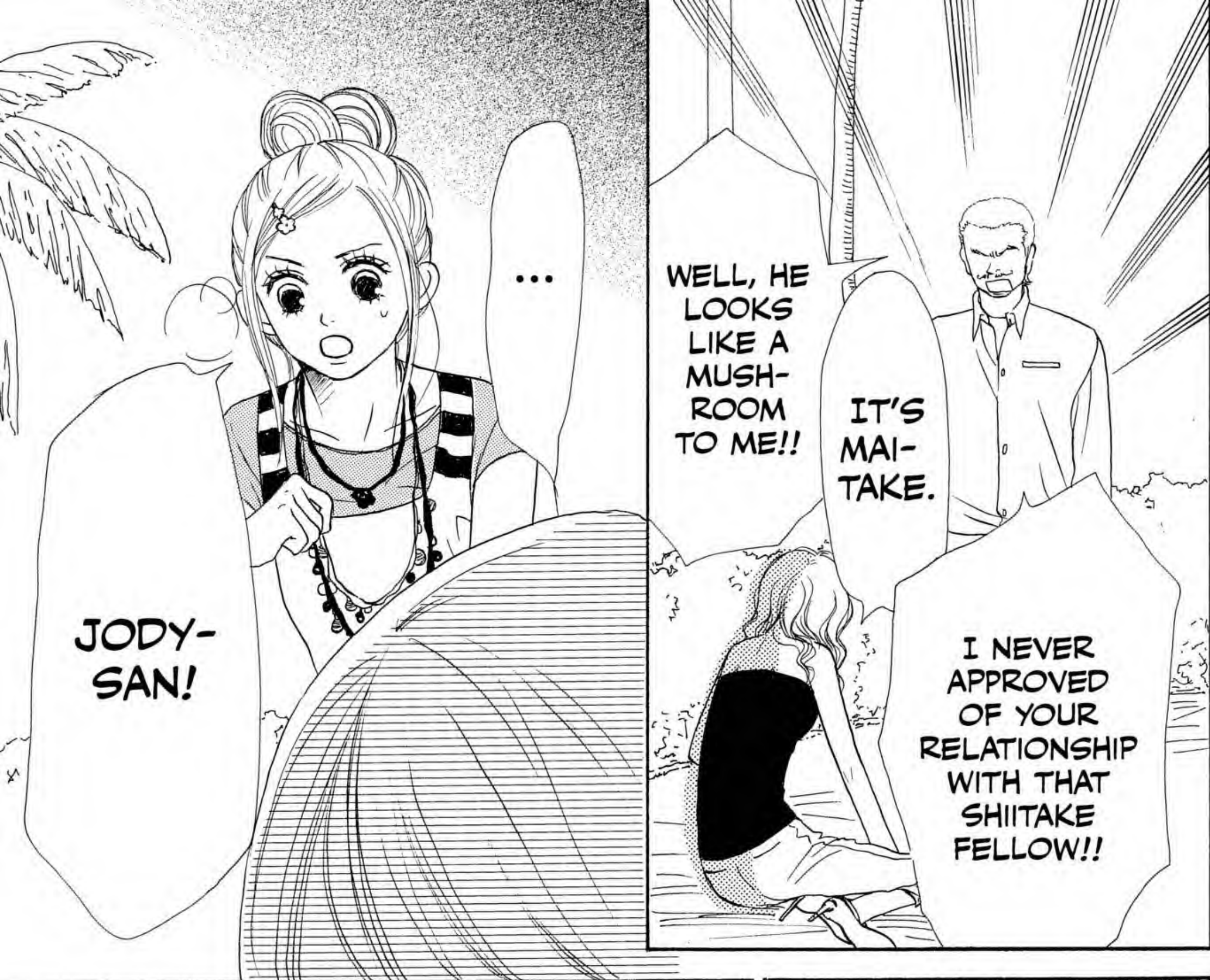


WE'RE ON
VACATION.

WE
SHOULD
HAVE A
LITTLE
FUN, AT
LEAST.











AFTER
ALL YOUR
BELLYACHING,
I THOUGHT
I'D GIVE IN
THIS ONCE.

BUT...

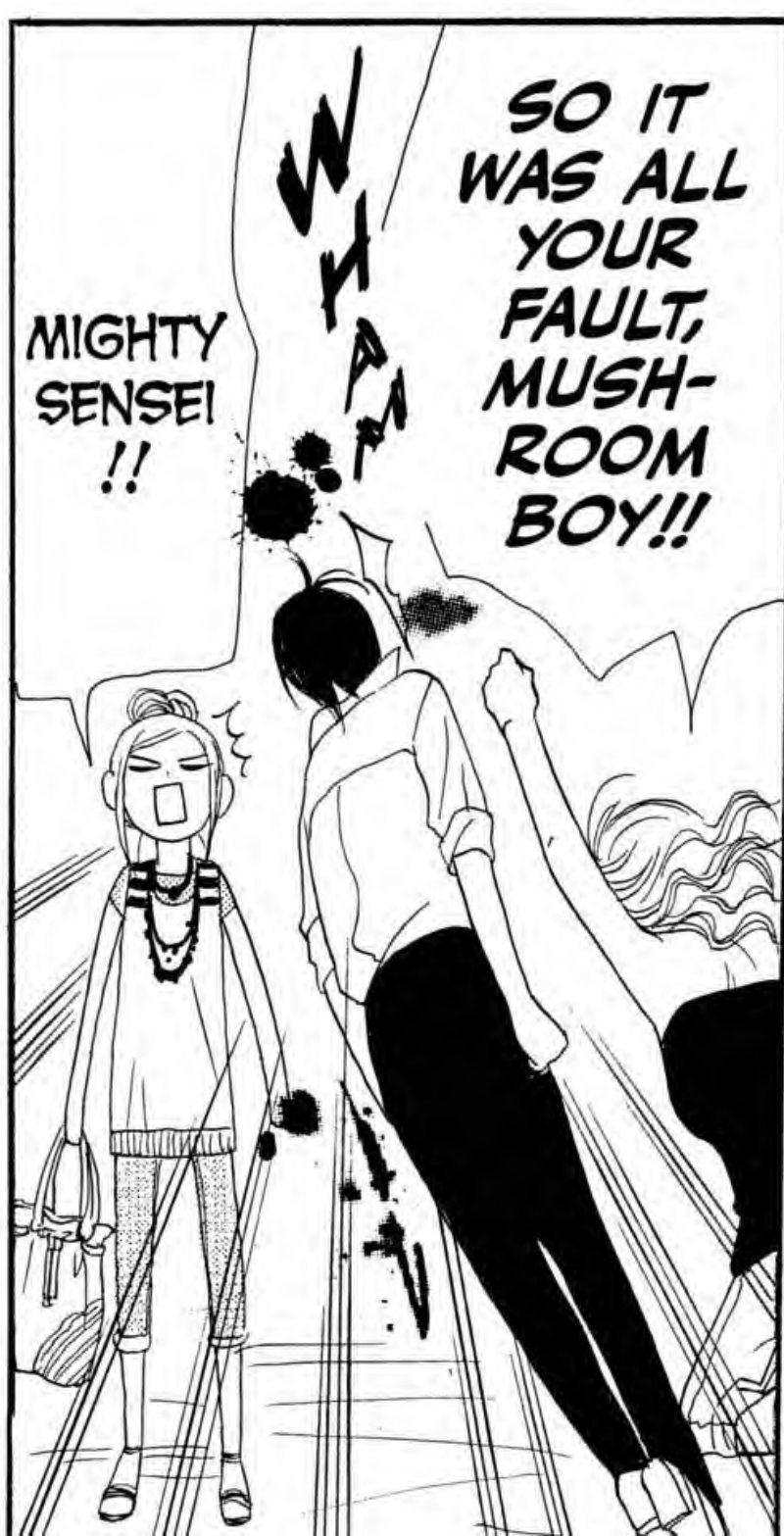
WHEN I
TOLD YOU
WE WERE
GETTING
MARRIED...

...YOU
SAID I
COULD DO
WHAT I
WANTED.



...I GOT A
BOUQUET
OF ROSES.

...ALONG
WITH
THE
WEDDING
INVITA-
TION...



MIGHTY
SENSEI
!!

SO IT
WAS ALL
YOUR
FAULT,
MUSH-
ROOM
BOY!!



FATHER!

JODY!

THAT
SHIITAKE
IS
CREEPY!!



YOU
SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH.

DON'T
BE SO
STUBBORN,
DEAR.

THAT'S
AMAZ-
ING.

HUH?

I'M
OKAY.
I'M
USED
TO IT.

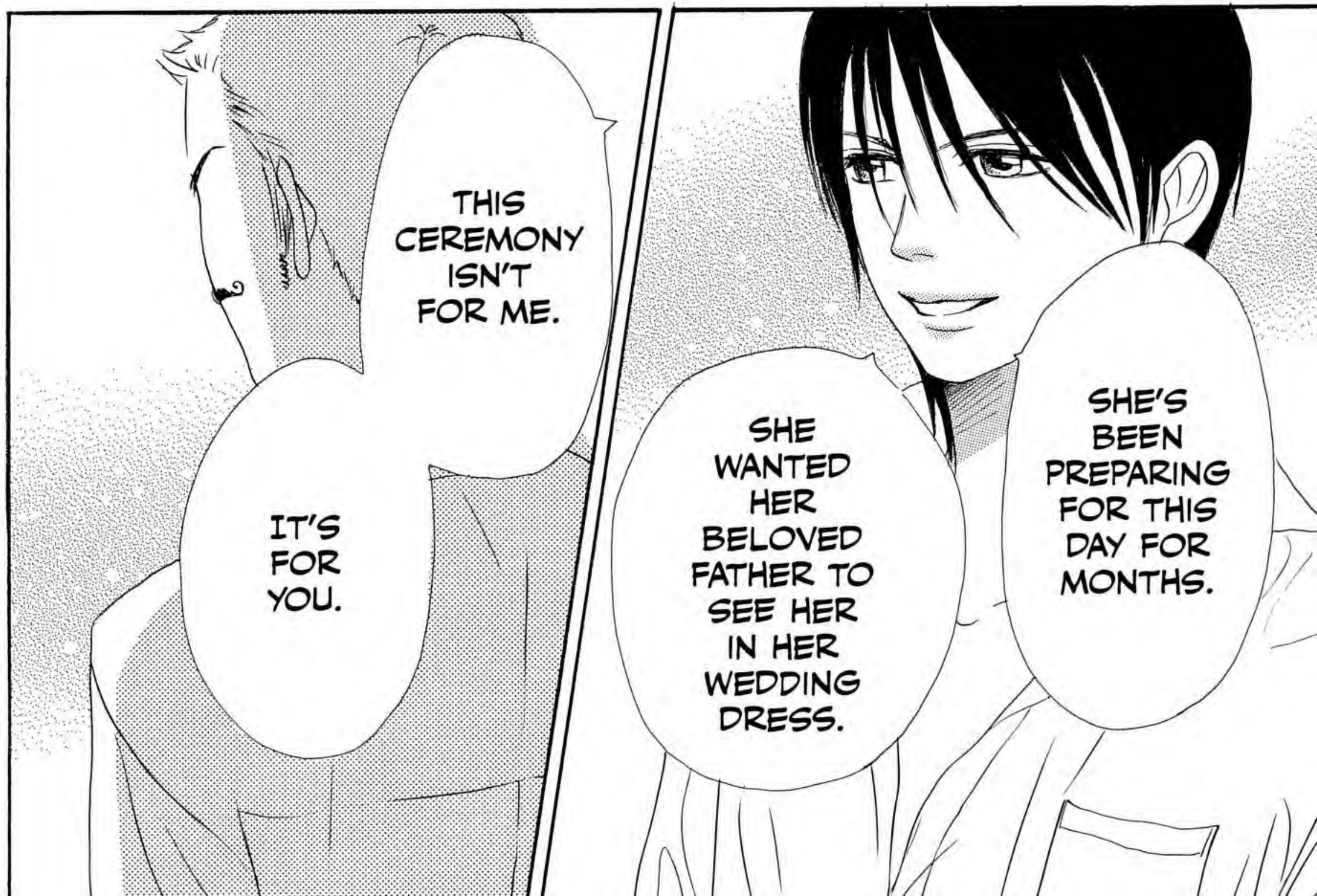
Heh



HRUMPH!!

PLEASE
ATTEND
THE
WEDDING
FOR
JODY'S
SAKE.

FATHER...

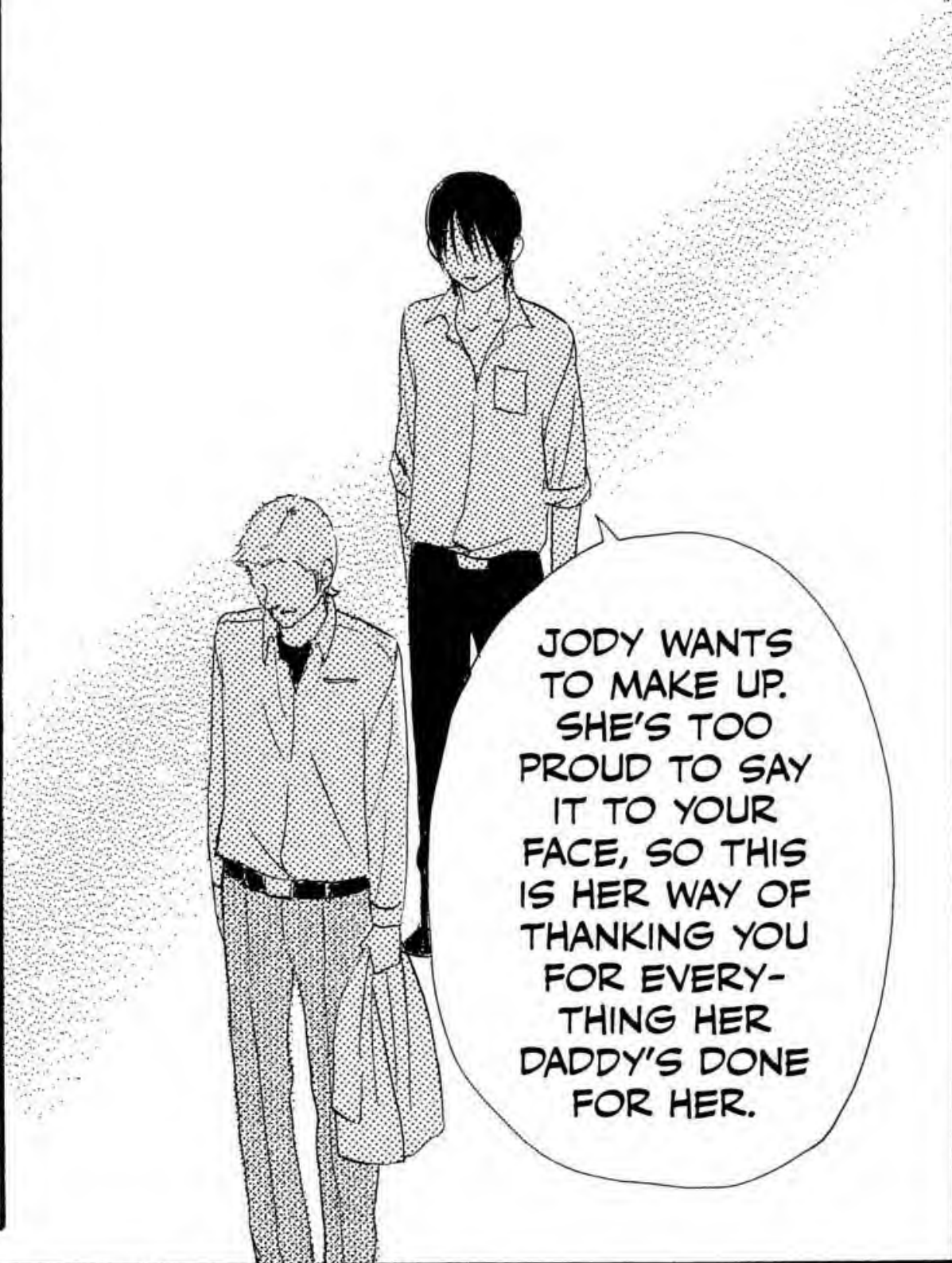


THIS
CEREMONY
ISN'T
FOR ME.

IT'S
FOR
YOU.

SHE
WANTED
HER
BELOVED
FATHER TO
SEE HER
IN HER
WEDDING
DRESS.

SHE'S
BEEN
PREPARING
FOR THIS
DAY FOR
MONTHS.







I
DON'T
WANT
TO!!

SHE'S
MY
DAUGHTER!!

**ASK
HIM!!
NOW!!**



NO, GO
AHEAD
AND
ASK ME.

...TO
TAKE CARE
OF MY
DAUGHTER.

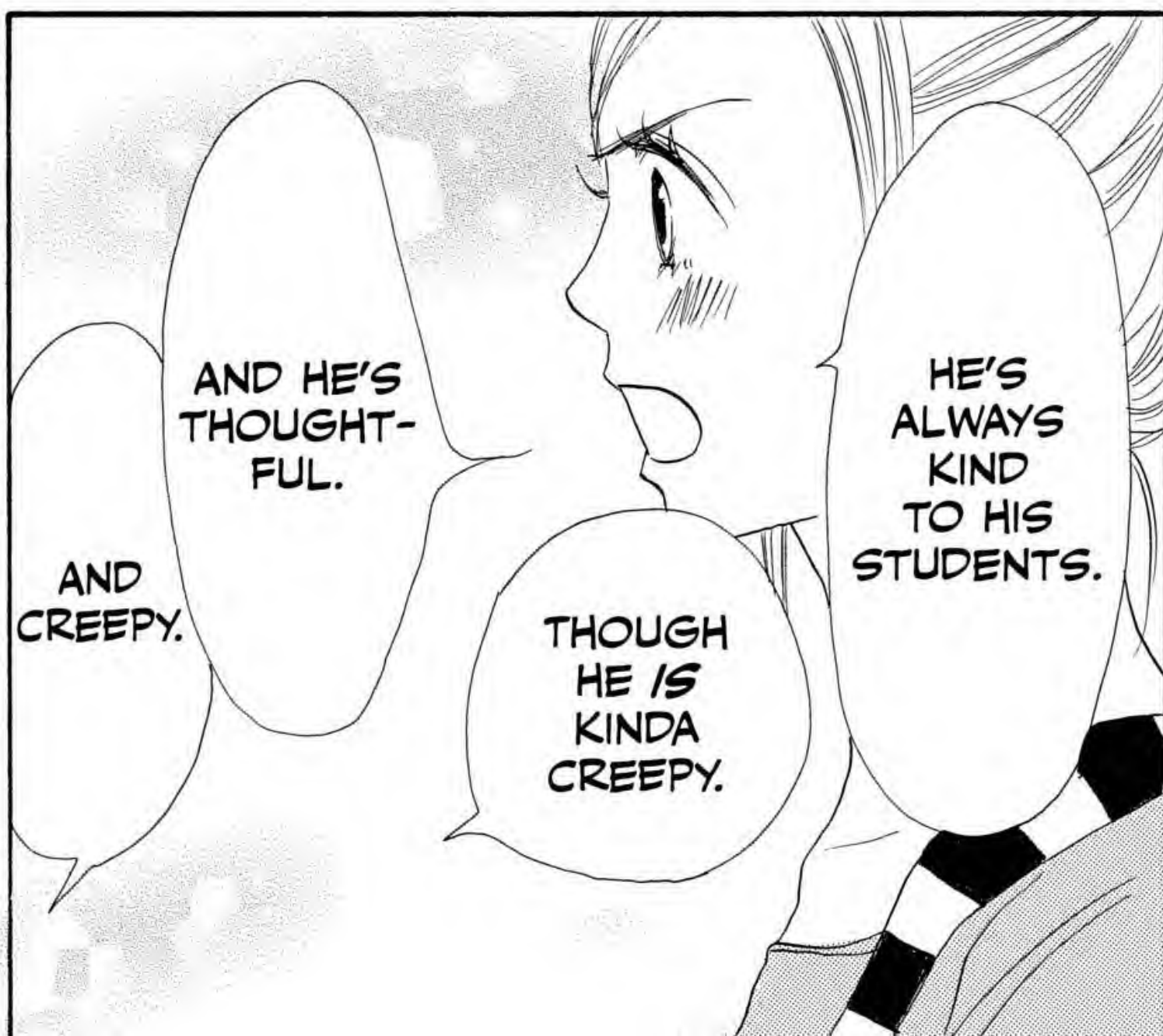
...
I
WON'T
ASK
YOU...



MIGHTY
SENSEI
IS A
GREAT
GUY!



ÔTANI!!

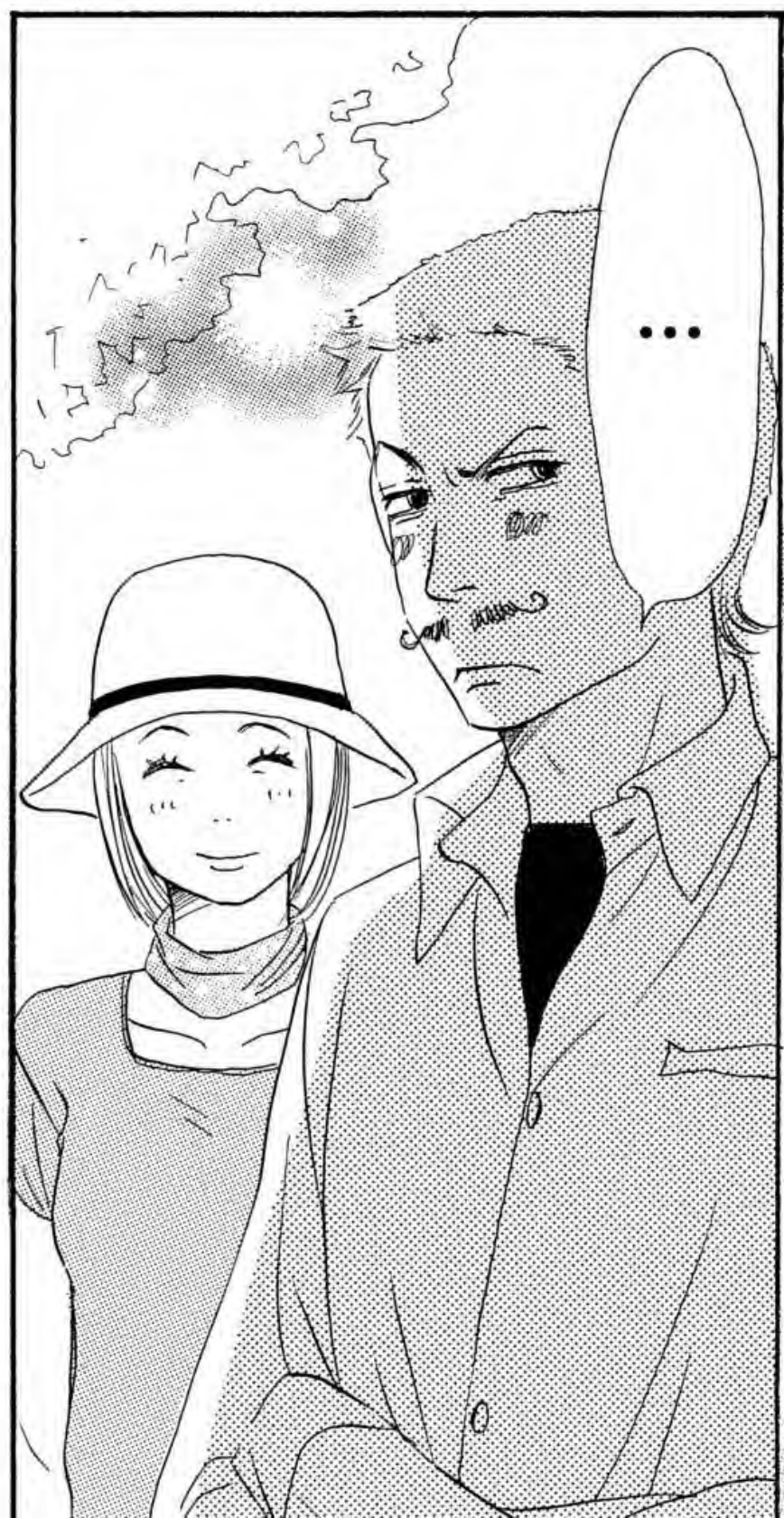
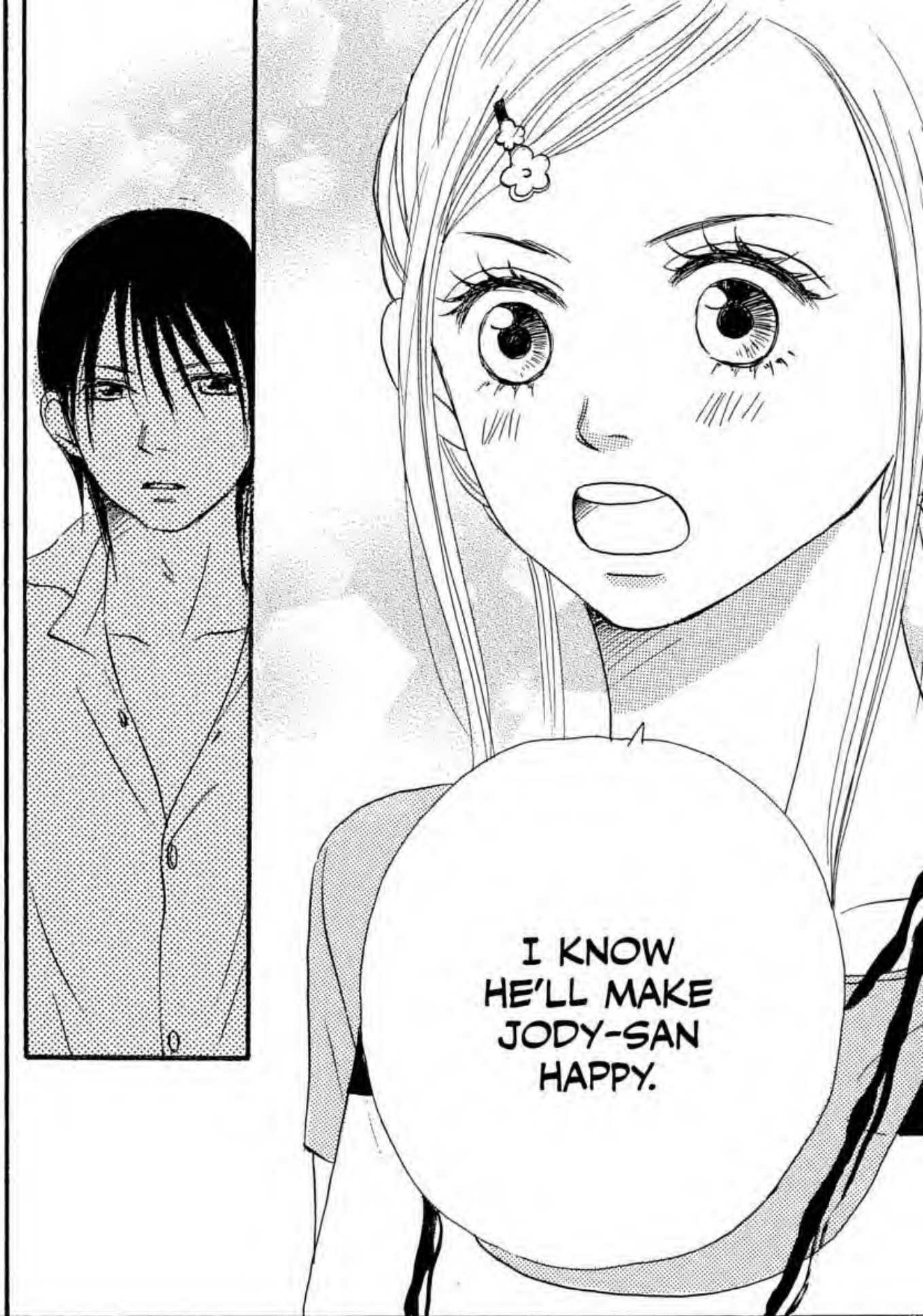
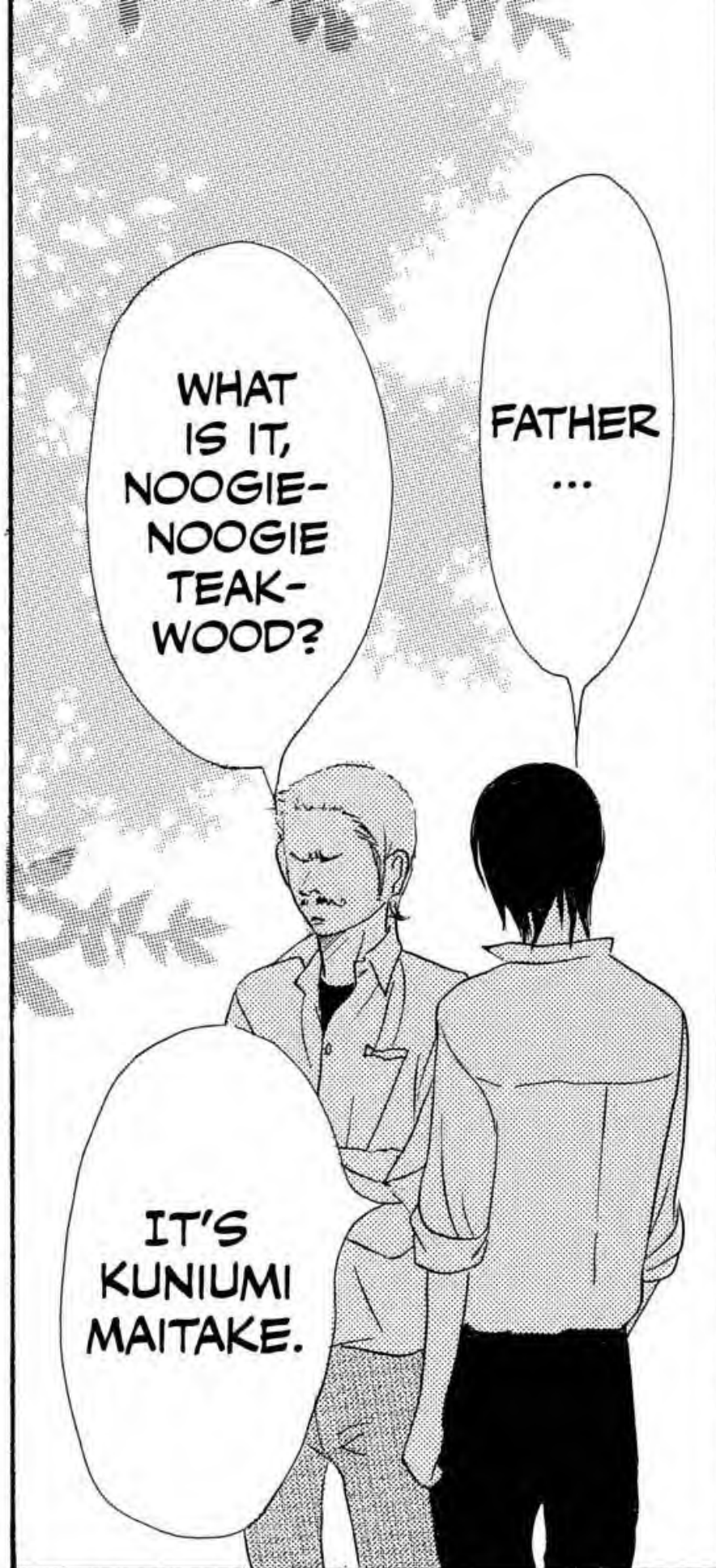


AND HE'S
THOUGHT-
FUL.

AND
CREEPY.

THOUGH
HE *IS*
KINDA
CREEPY.

HE'S
ALWAYS
KIND
TO HIS
STUDENTS.





I'M
NOT!

BUT
I'M NOT
ACCEPT-
ING HIM!



WELL...

I GUESS
I CAN AT
LEAST
ATTEND
THE
CEREMONY.



DEAR...

HMPH.

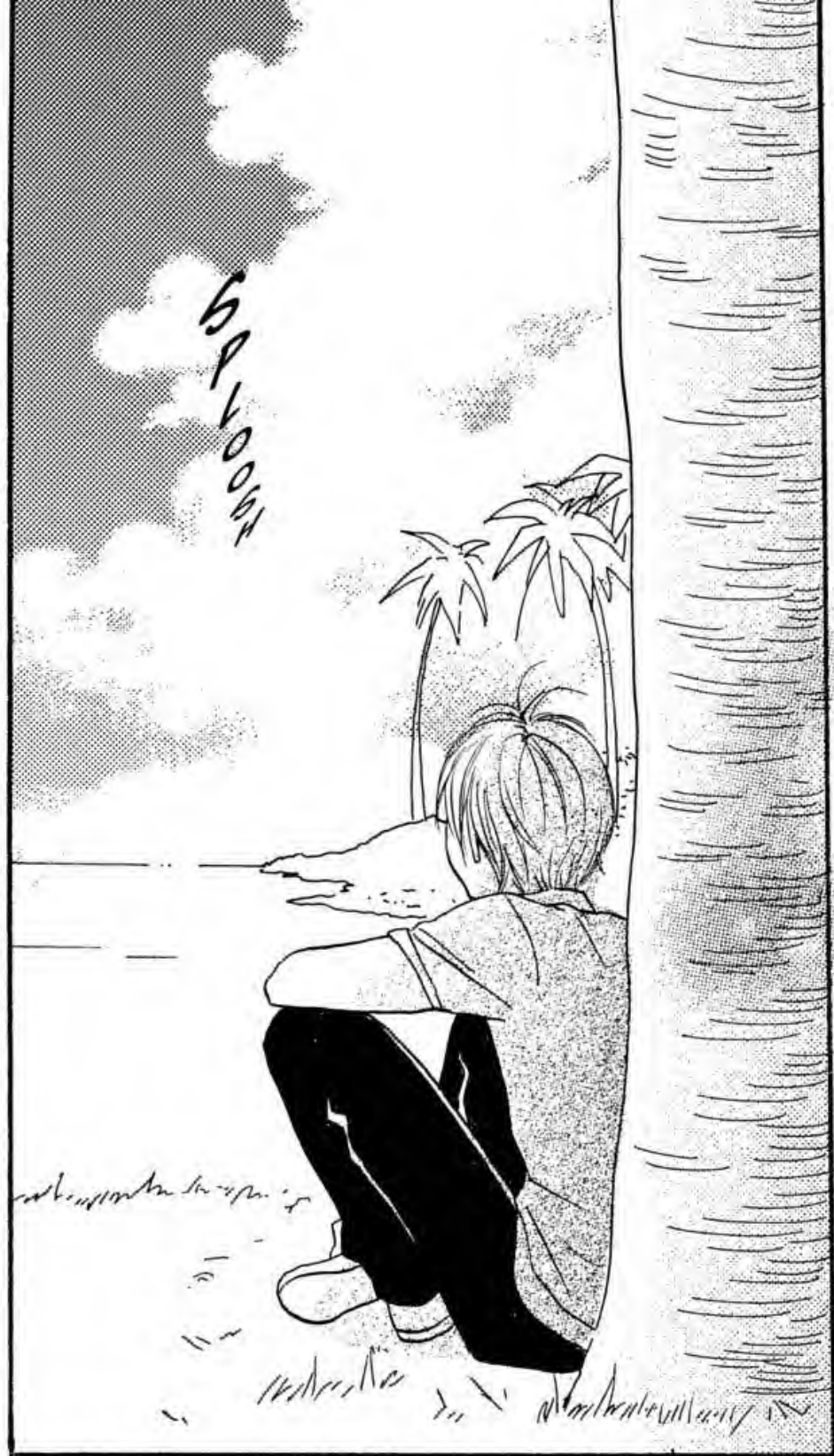


THANK
YOU,
PAPA!



LET'S
HURRY
UP AND
GET
READY.

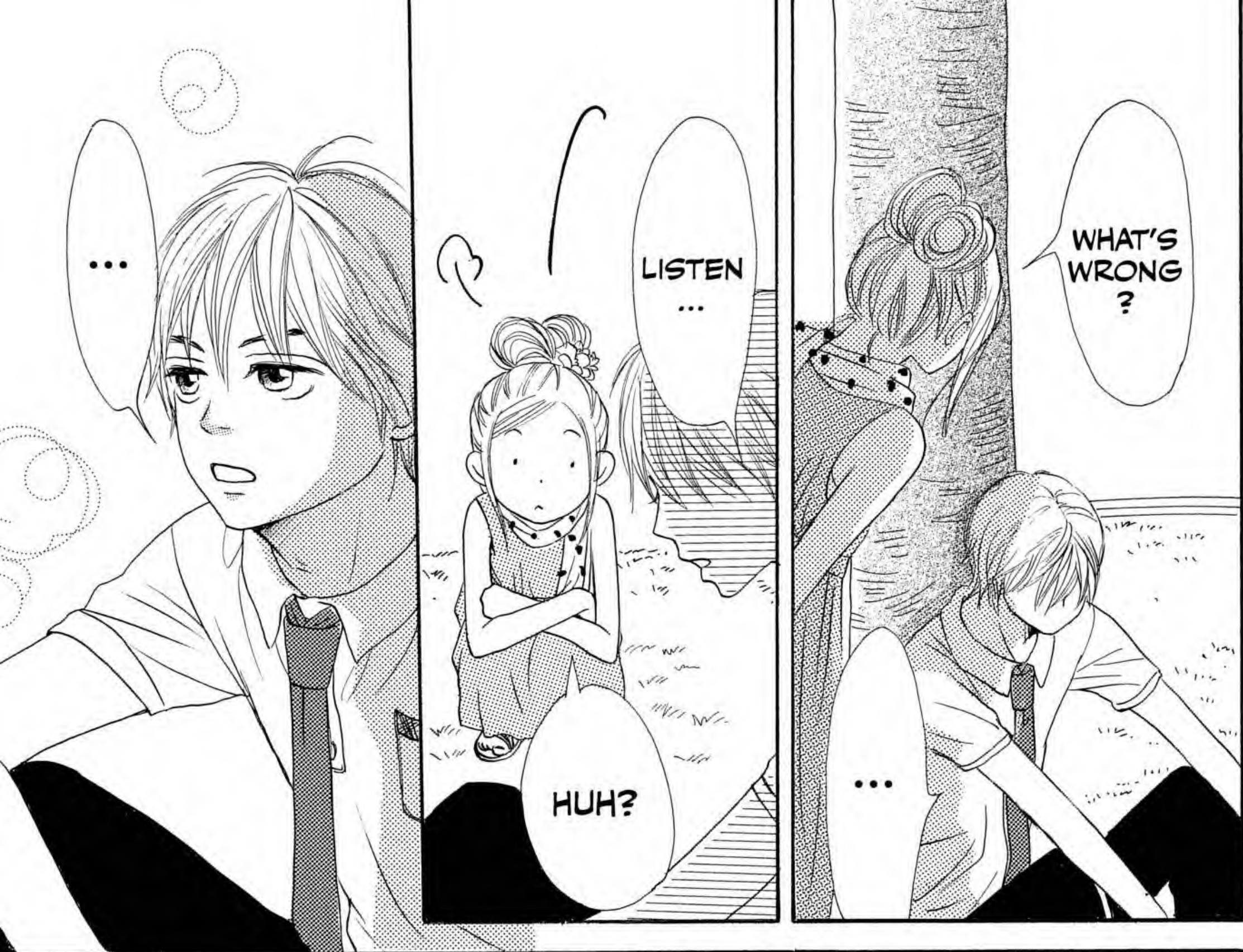
OKAY!

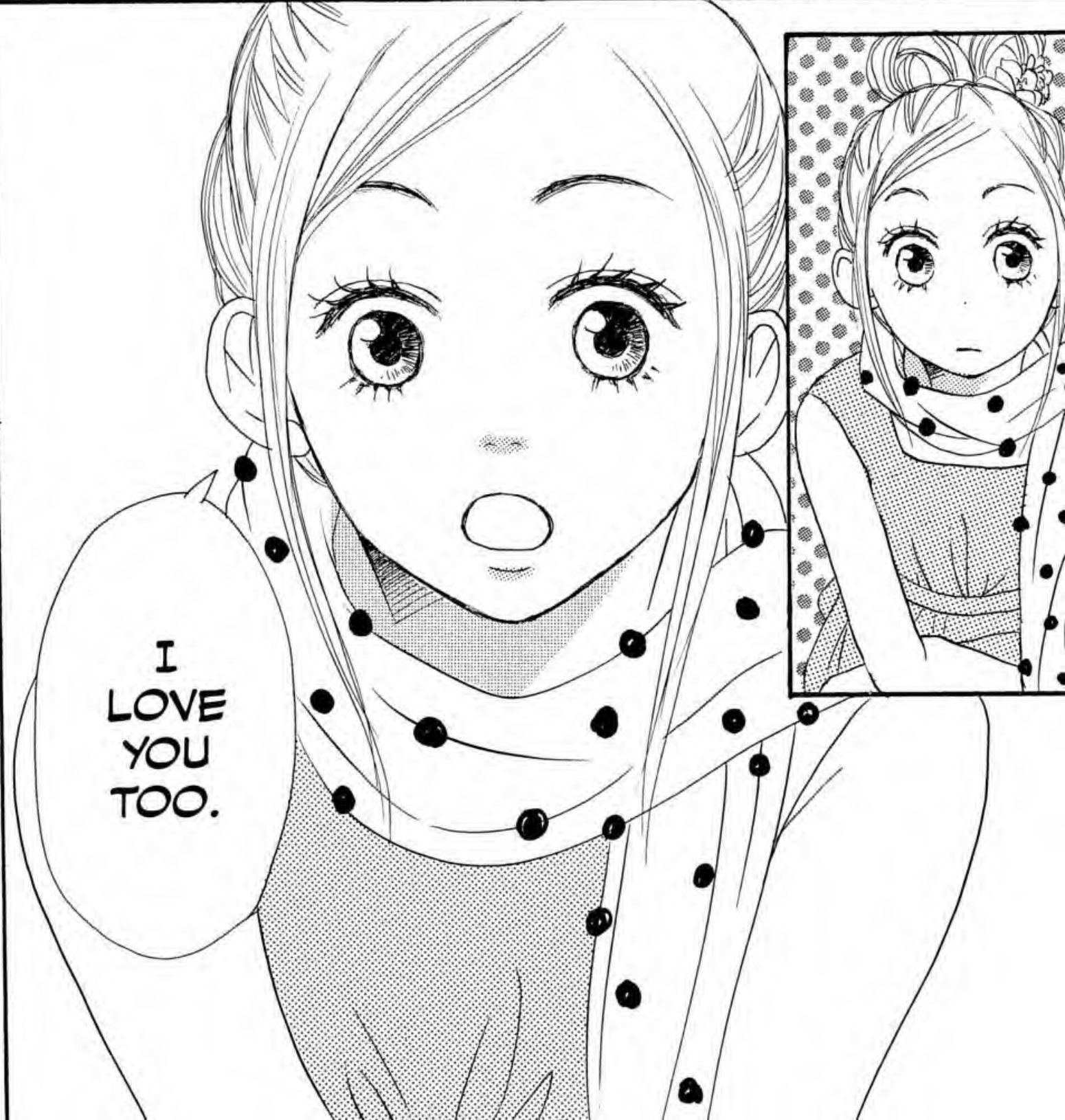
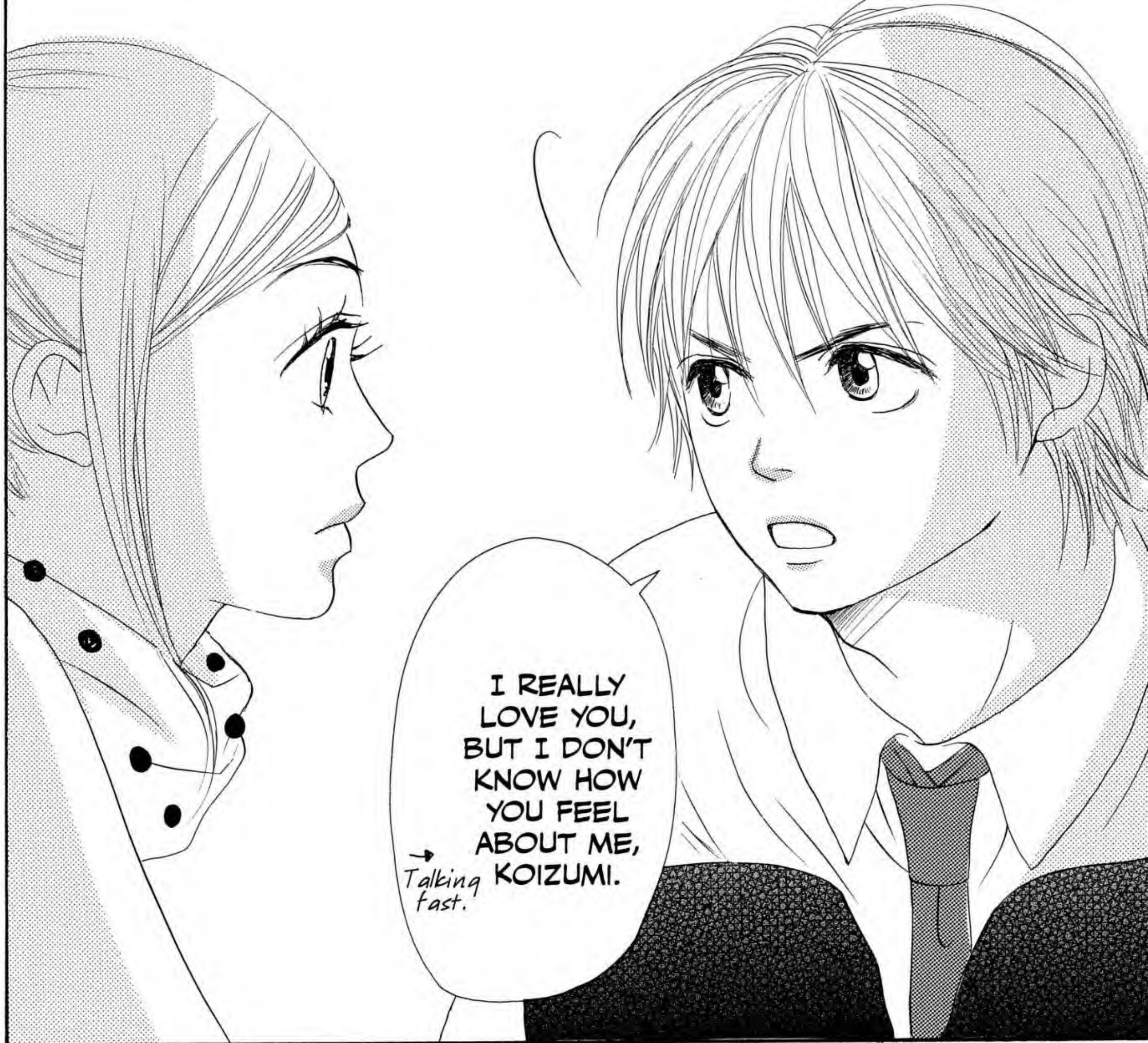


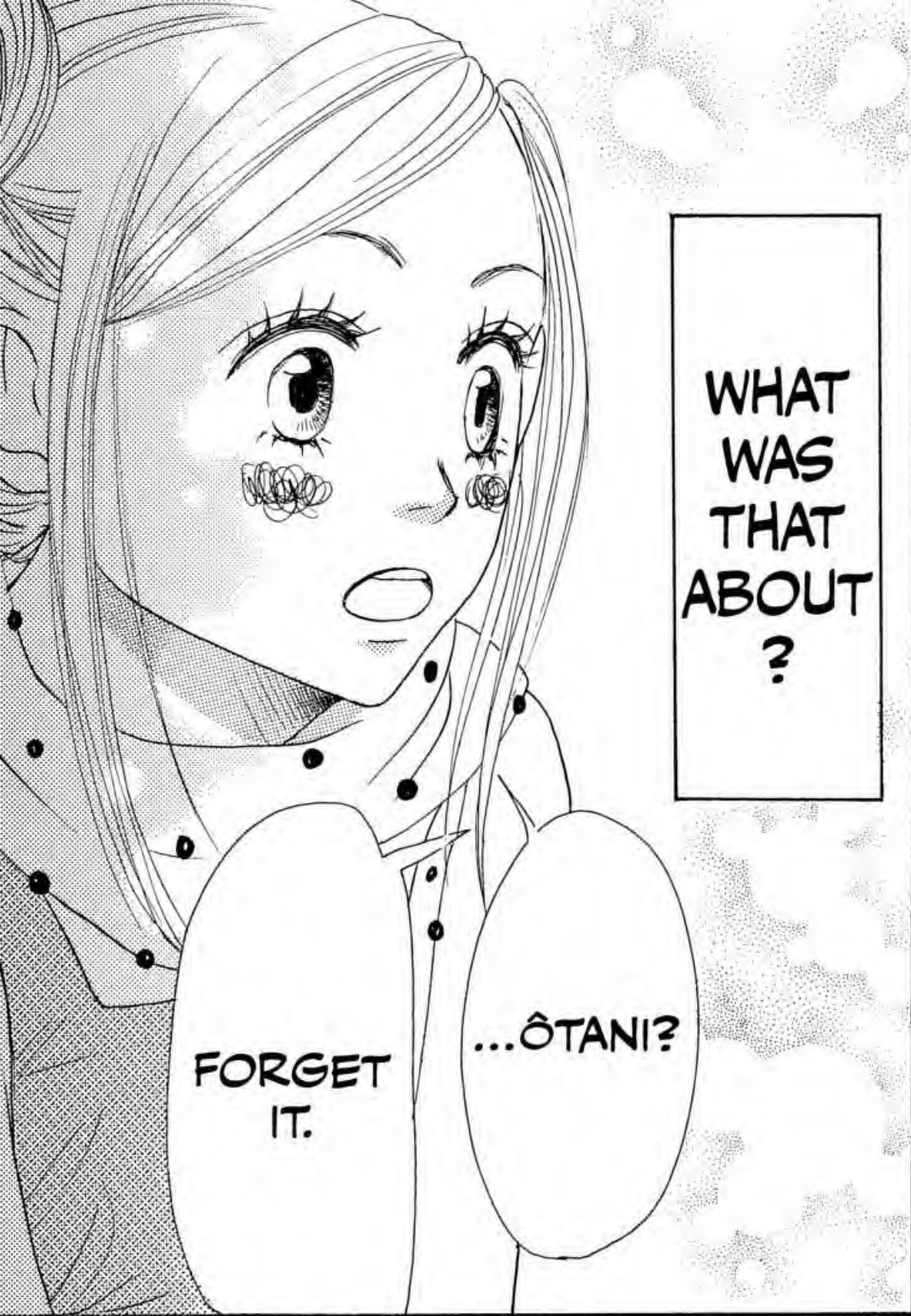
THANK
GOOD-
NESS.

WE GET
TO GO
TO THE
WEDDING!







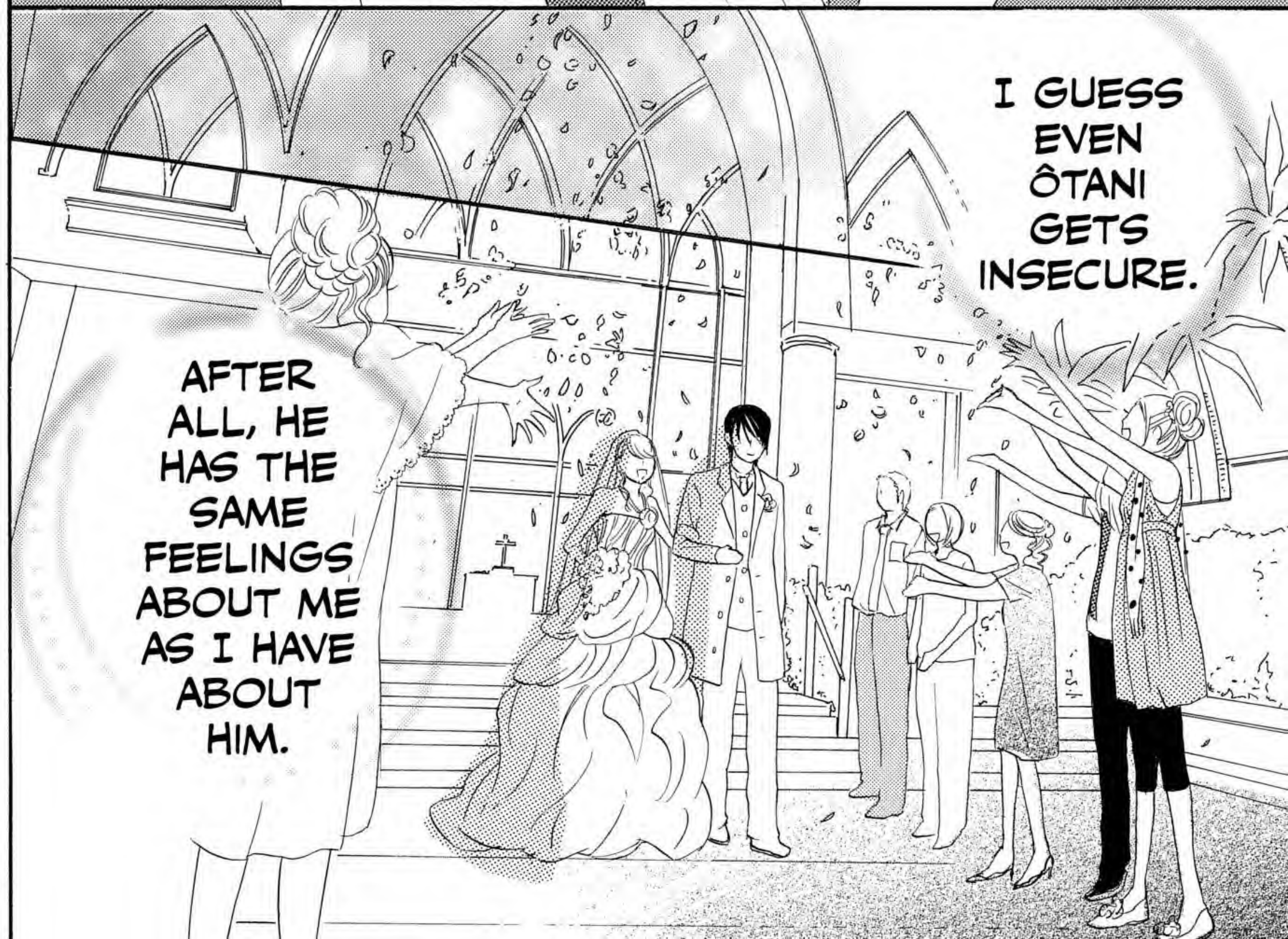
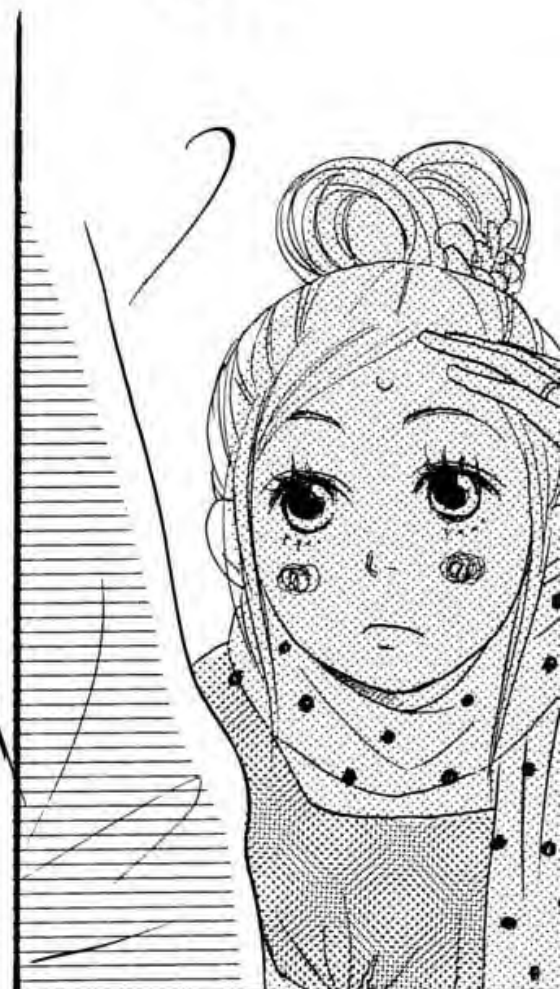




C'MON,
LET'S
GO!

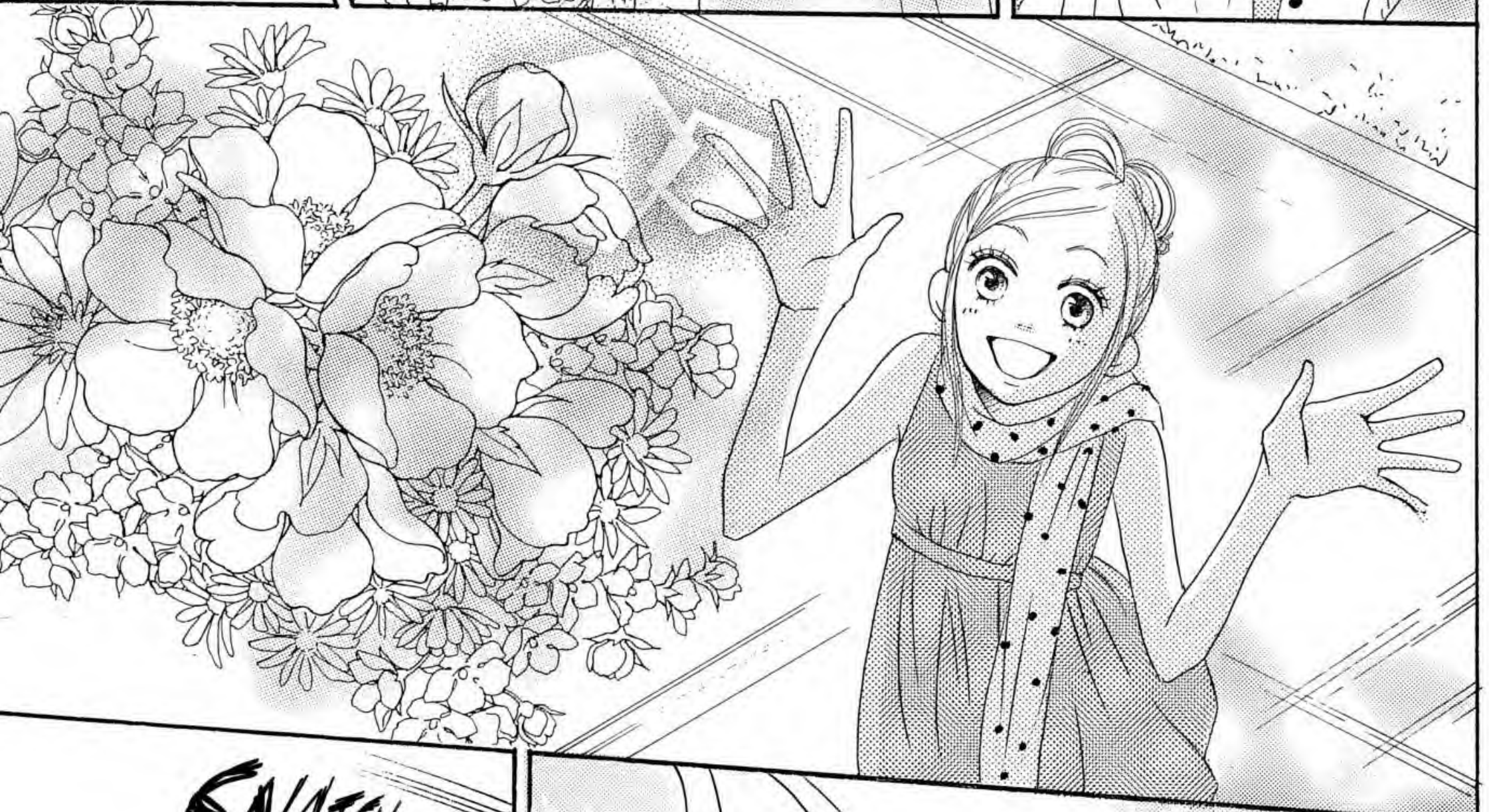
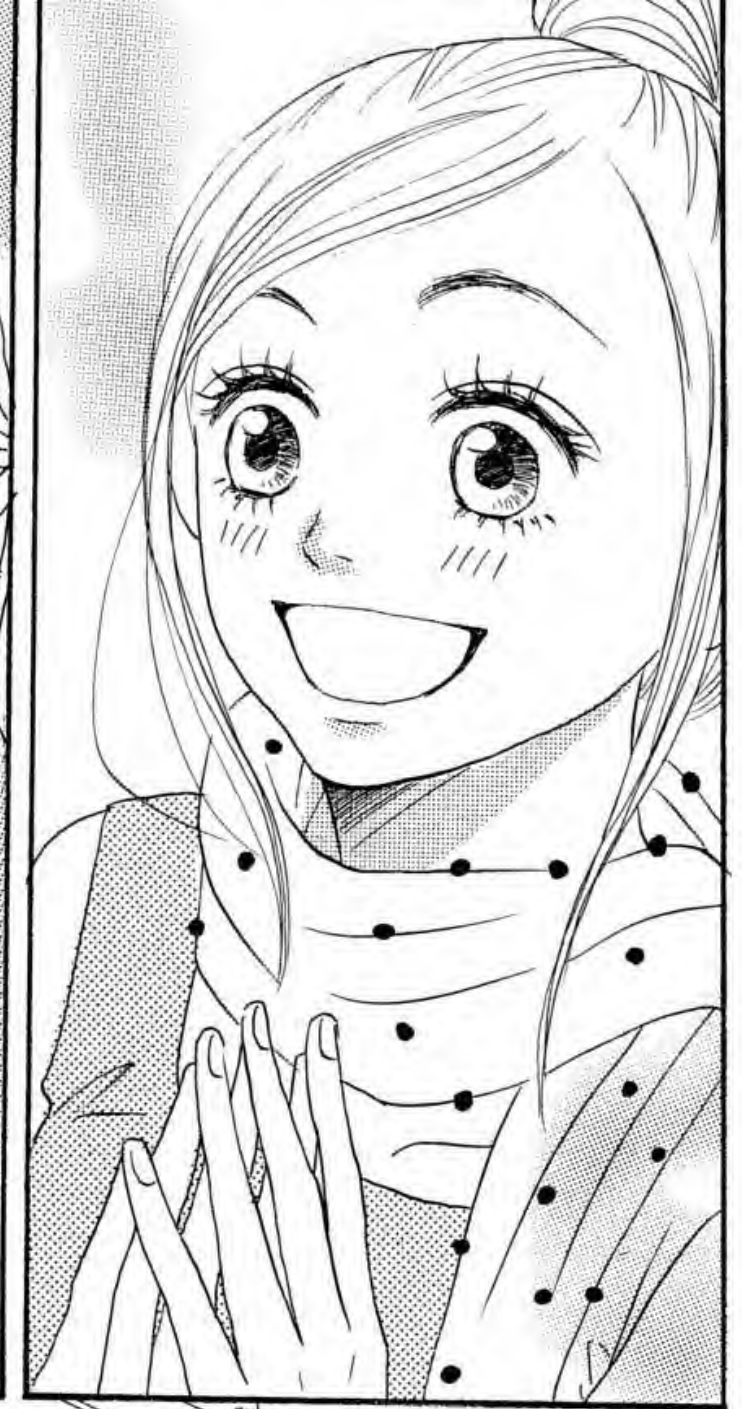
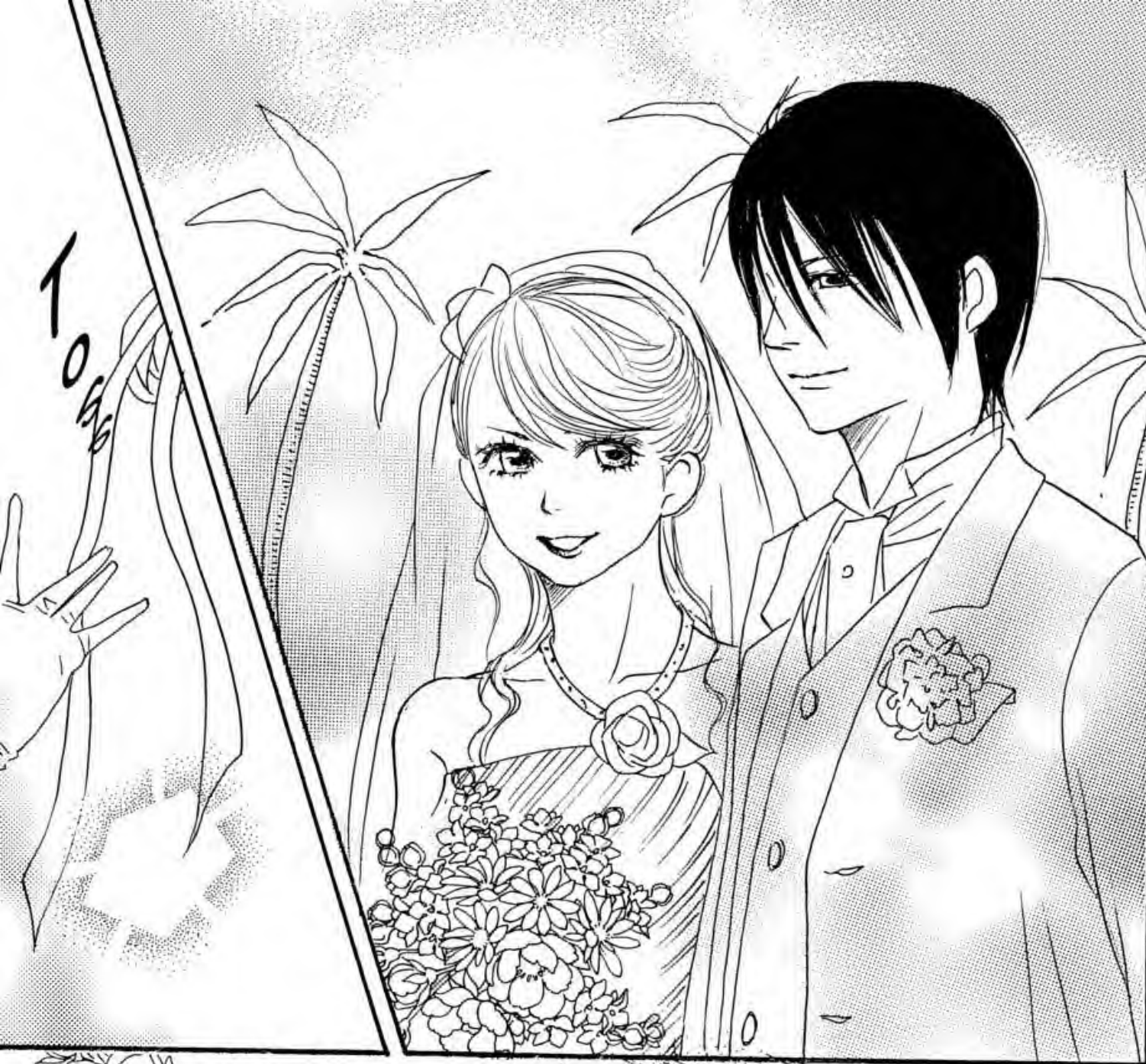
...MADE
ÔTANI
FEEL
UNSURE
ABOUT
US.

I
GUESS
I...

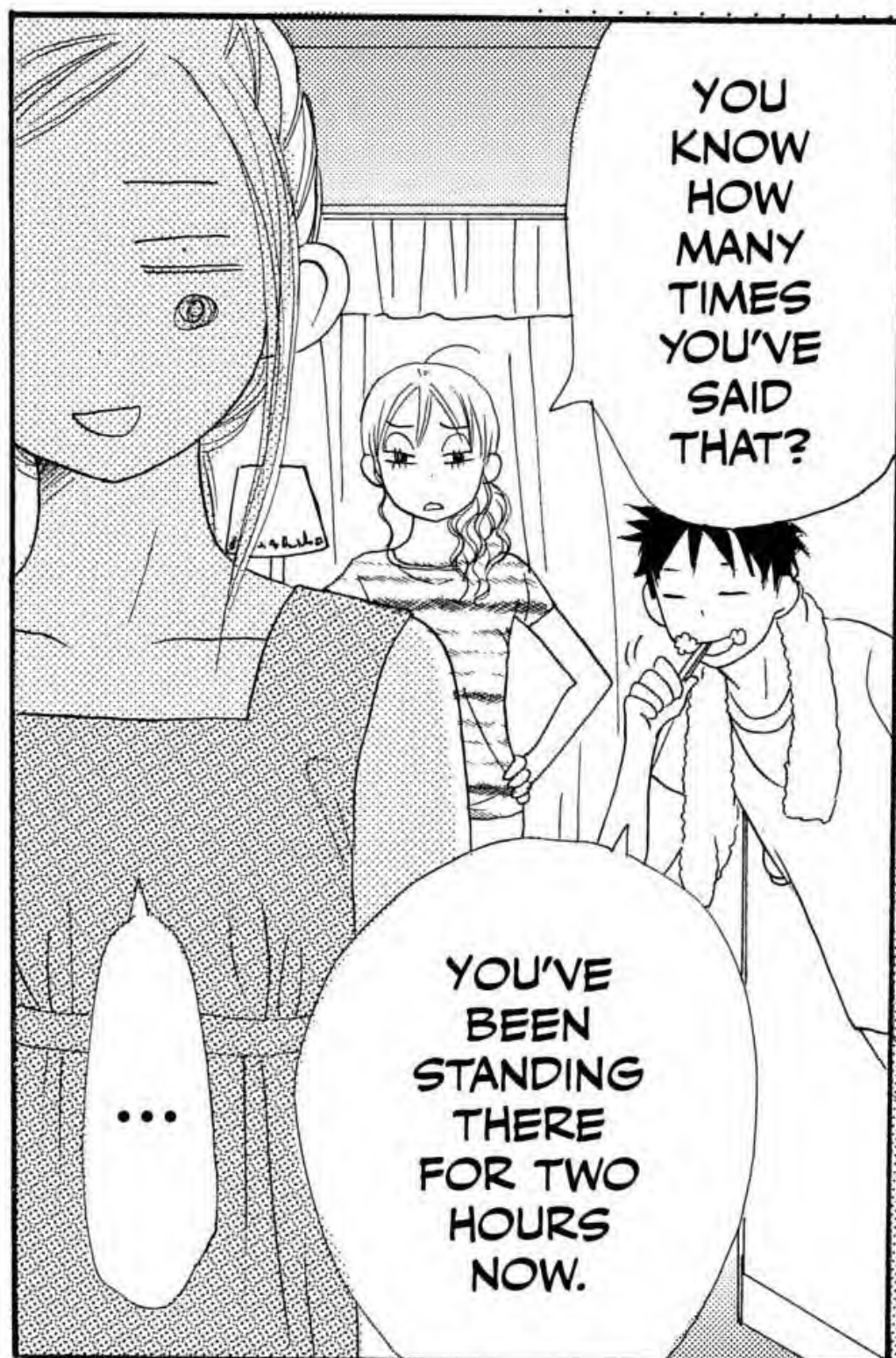


AFTER
ALL, HE
HAS THE
SAME
FEELINGS
ABOUT ME
AS I HAVE
ABOUT
HIM.

I GUESS
EVEN
ÔTANI
GETS
INSECURE.







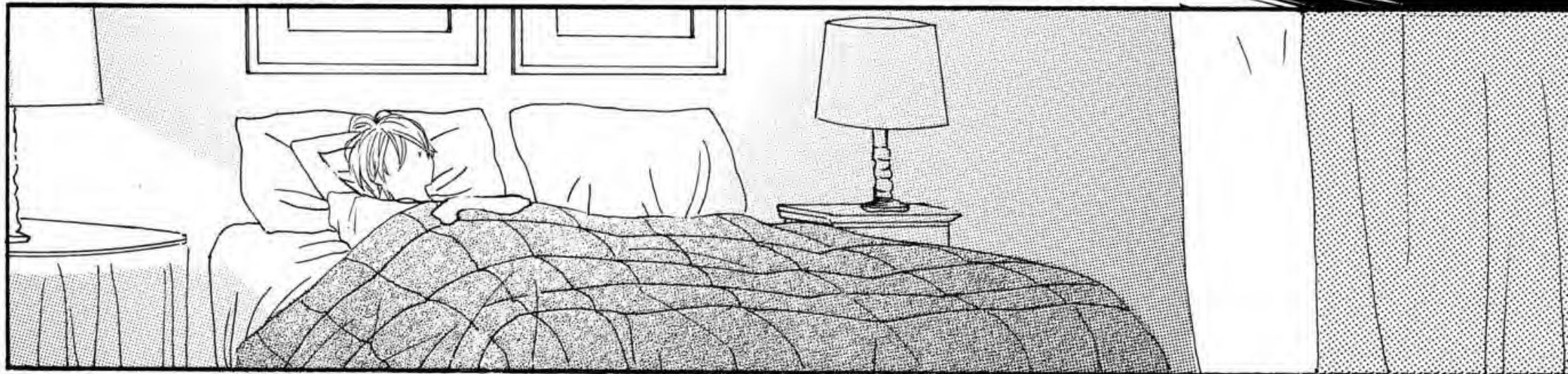


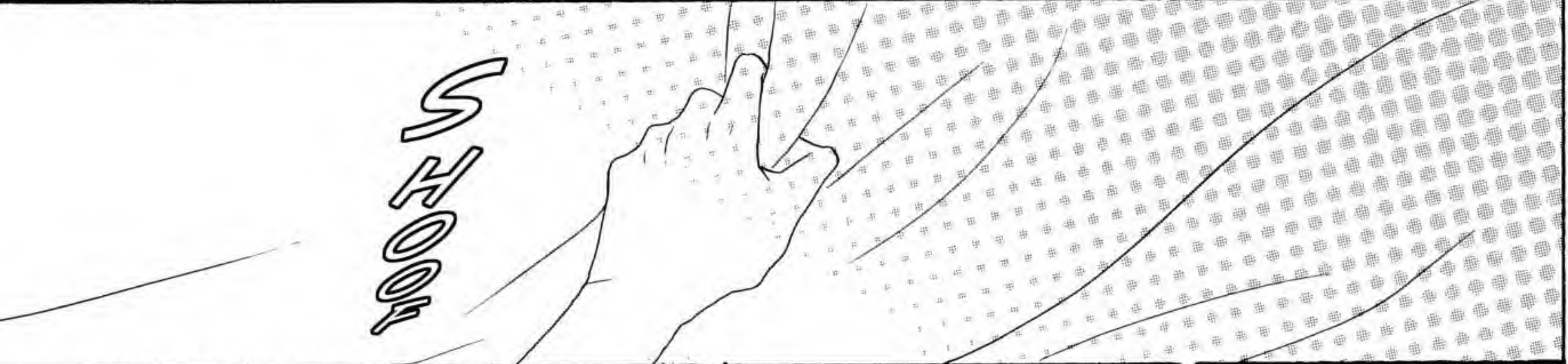
I'M
COMING!!

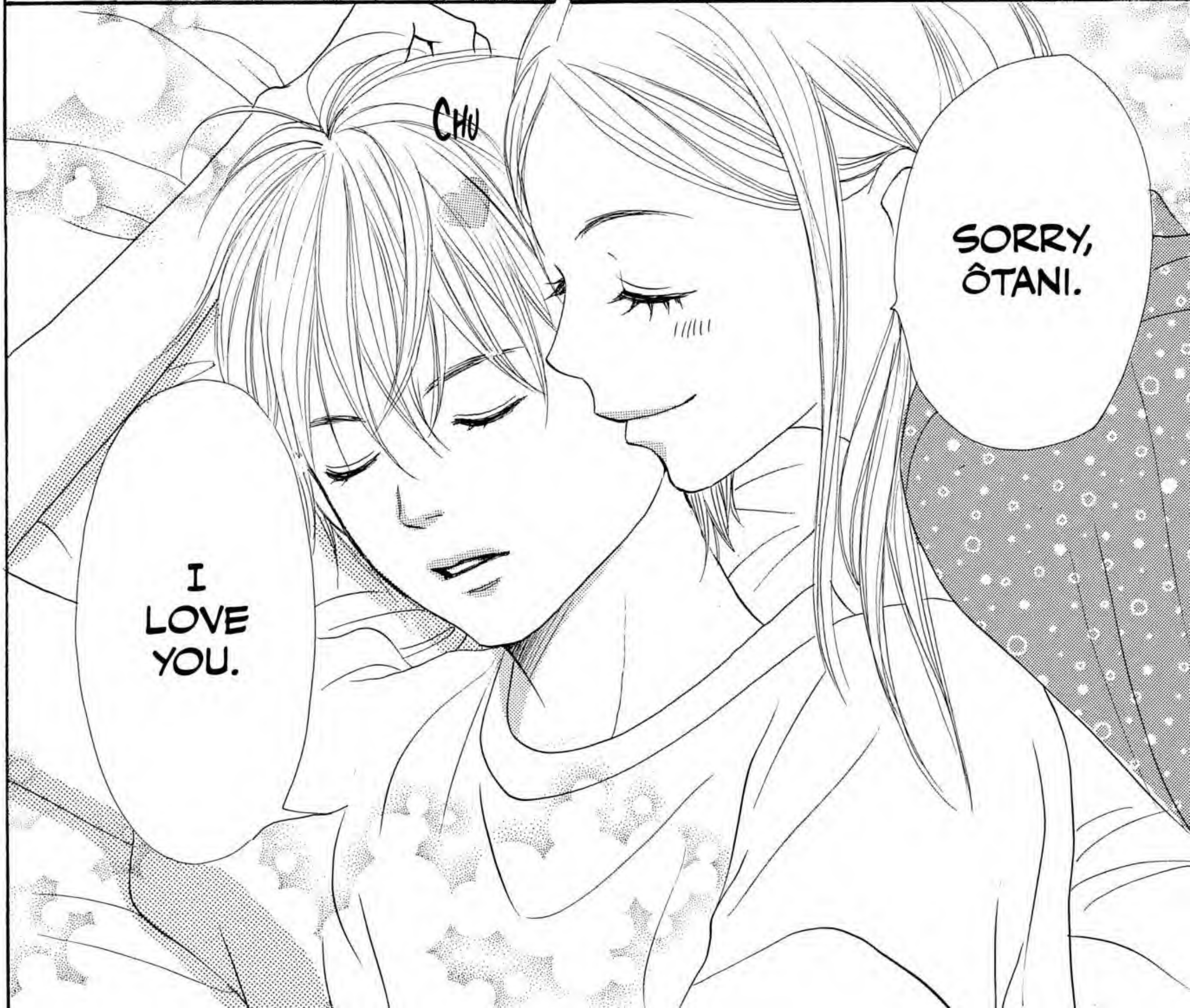
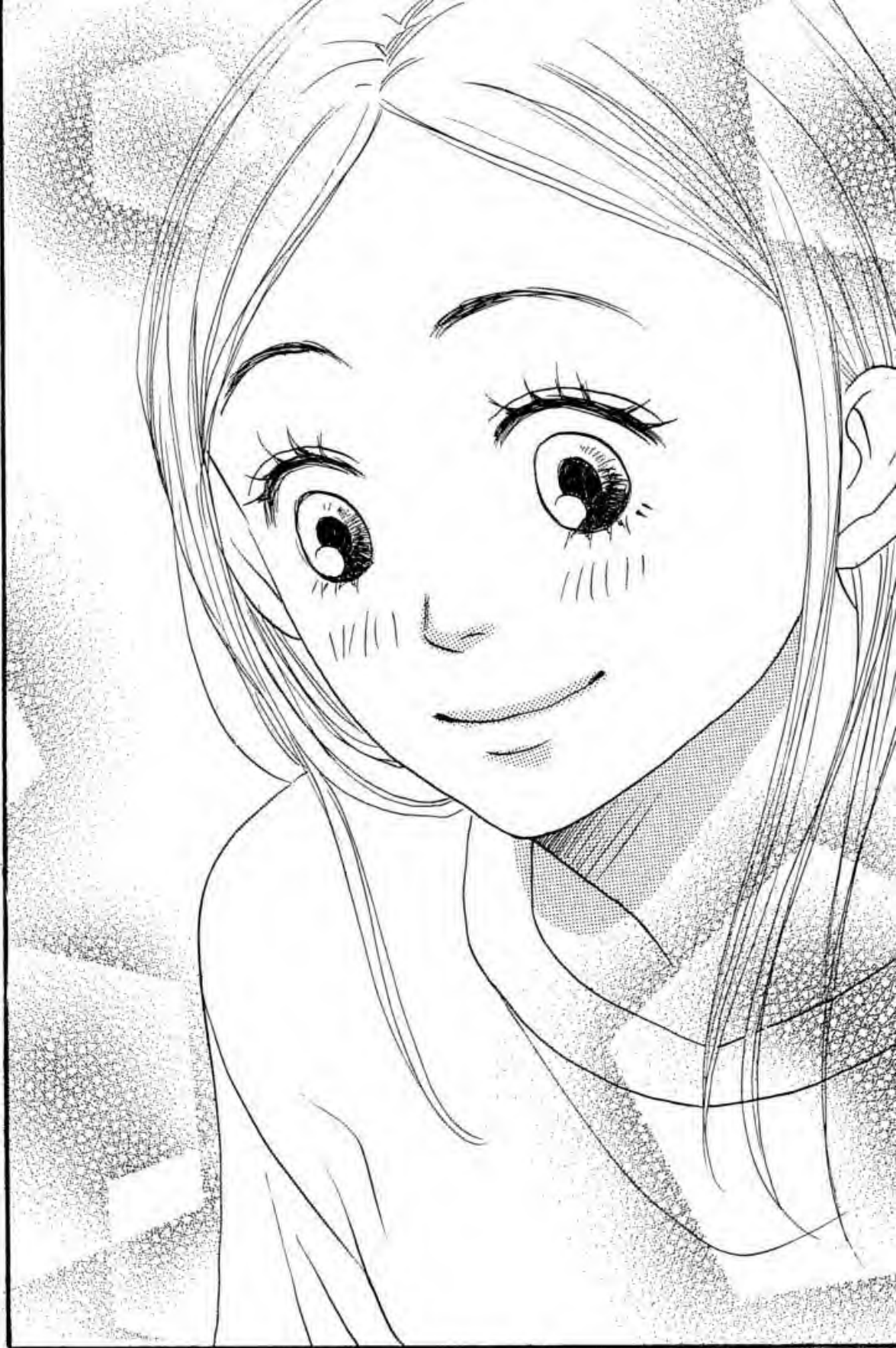
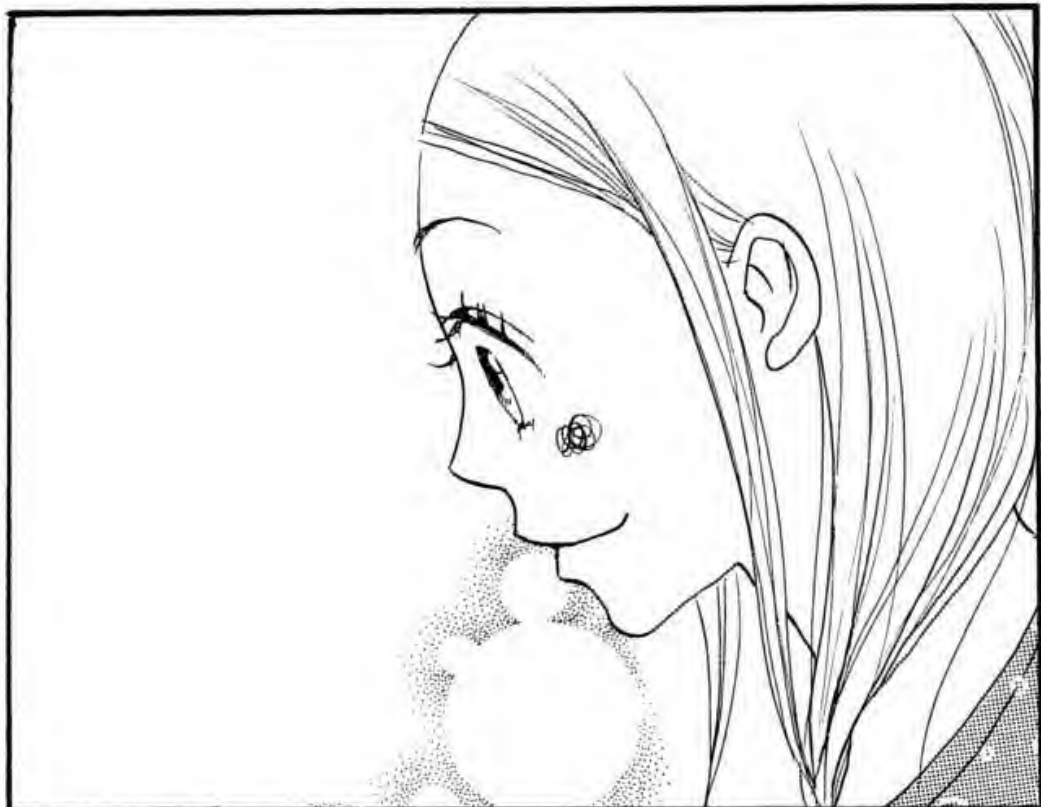
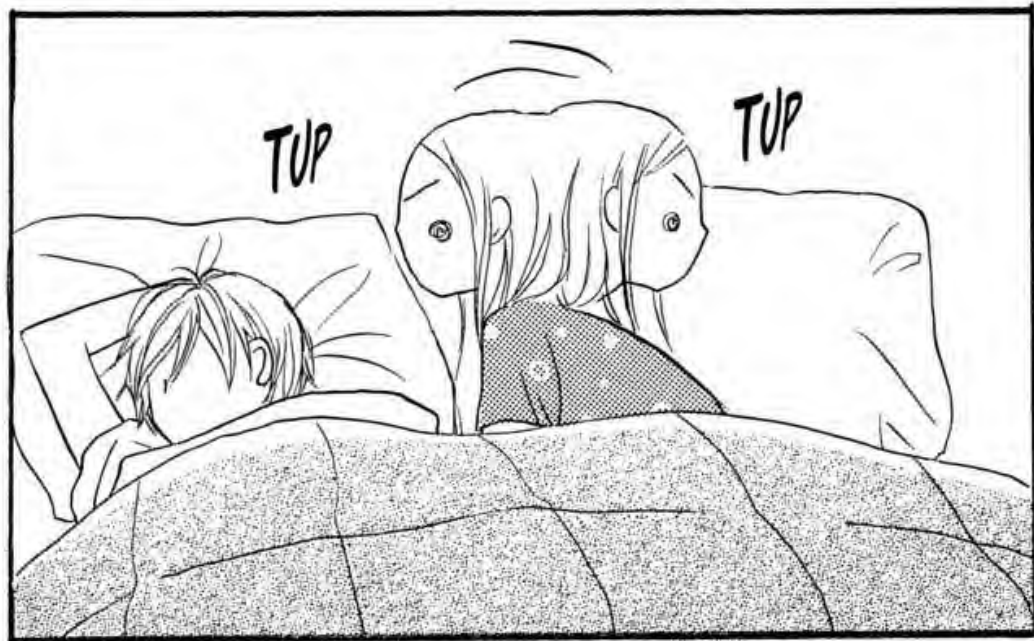
YEAH.

WAIT
FOR
ME,
ÔTANI.

CHAM







I
LOVE
YOU.

SORRY,
ÔTANI.





...FROM
OUR
TROPICAL
VACATION.

WHP

WE'VE
JUST
COME
HOME...



CHAPTER 59



IS
EVERY-
BODY
READY?

ALL
RIGHT!!

TIME TO
ANNOUNCE
THE
RESULTS OF
THE SURVEY
YOU WERE
ASKED TO
FILL OUT
OVER
BREAK!!

UMEGAWA
HIHARA
WAO
TSUCHIDA
NOGUCHI
YAMANAKA
TSUCHIYA
MUNETOMO
KOIZUMI
IMAGAWA
TANAKA
KAWASAKI



LET'S SEE.
THE FIRST
GUY ELECTED
TO THE
TOTALLY LAME
POSITION OF
GRADUATION
REPRESENT-
ATIVE...

All
right,
what-
ever...

OKAY, OKAY!
ÔTANI,
YOU
START
WITH THE
GUYS!



YEAH!

I
CAN'T
HEAR
YOU!!

YEAH!!

COME
ON, GET
WITH IT.

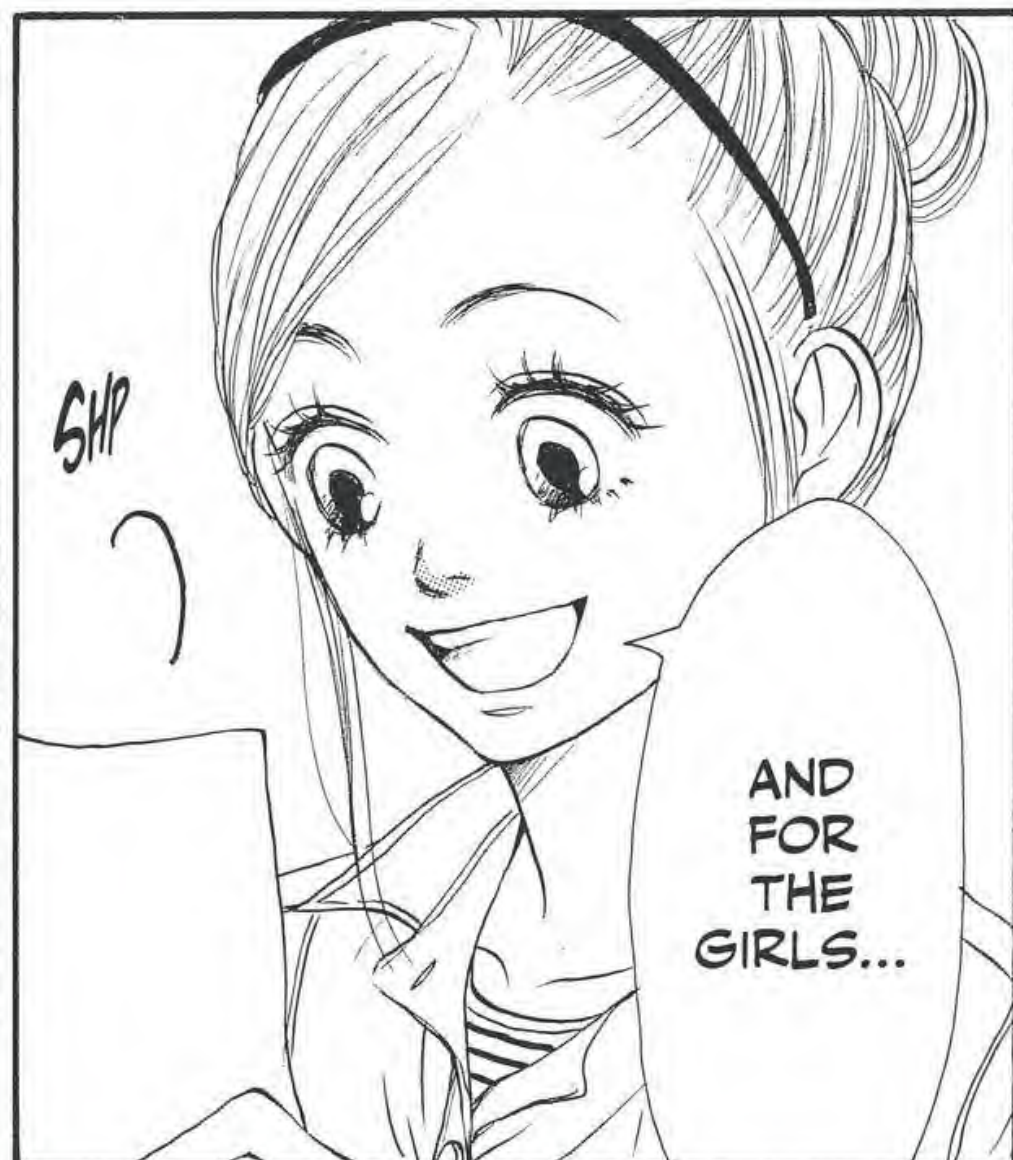
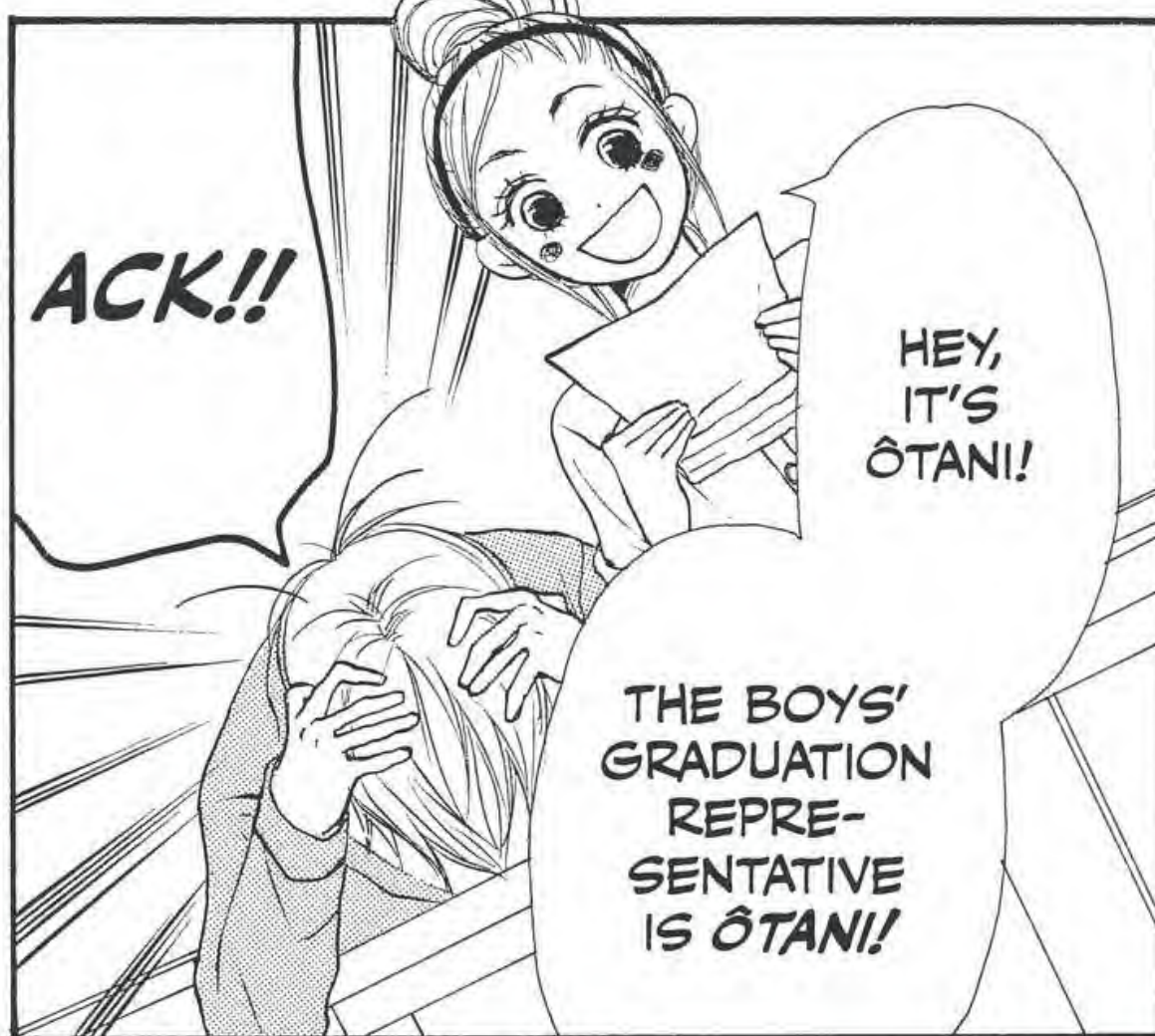


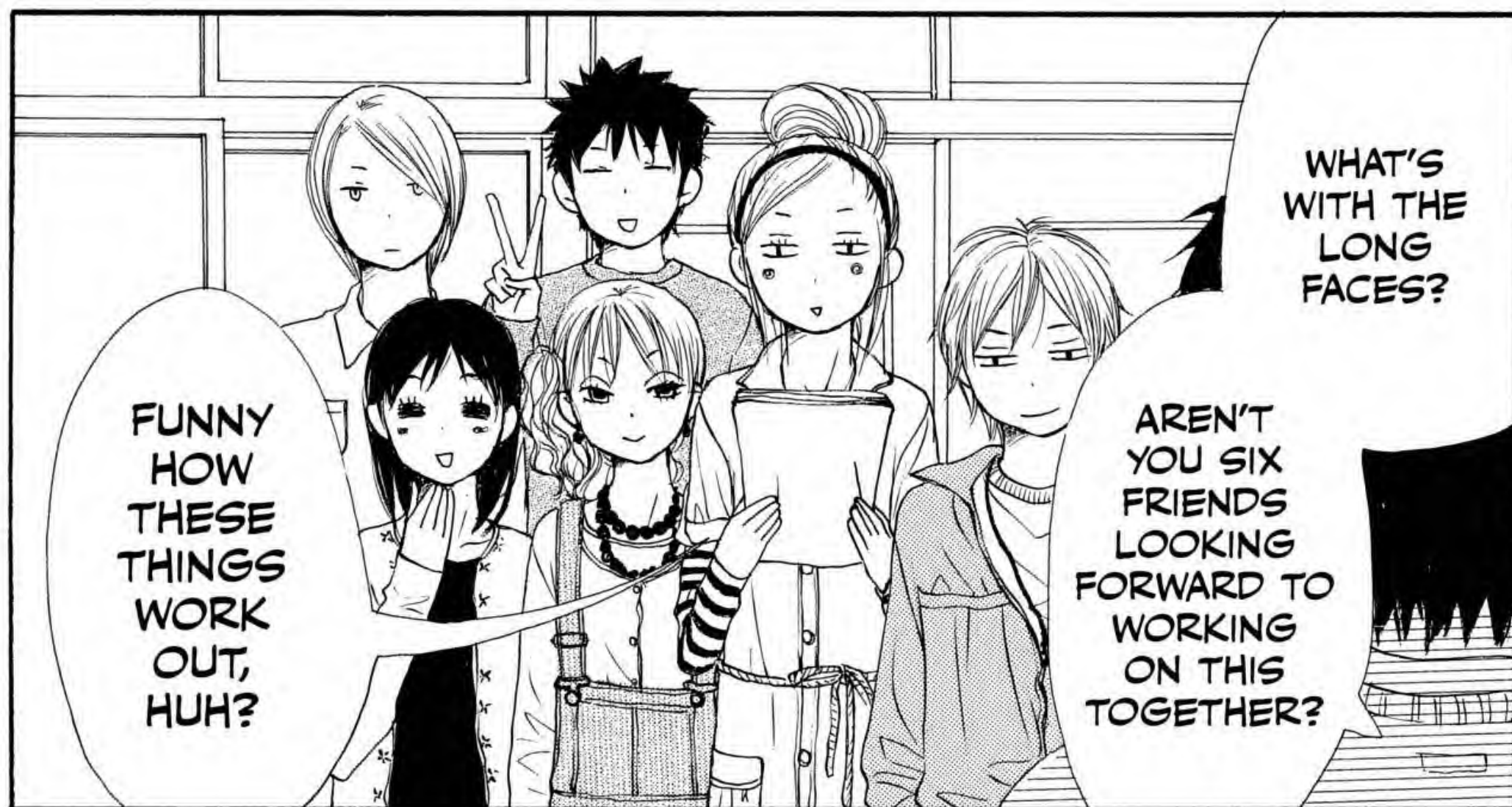
SAY, WHY
DON'T WE
VOTE ON
THIS ONE
MORE
TIME?

HUH?

OTANI







FUNNY
HOW
THESE
THINGS
WORK
OUT,
HUH?

WHAT'S
WITH THE
LONG
FACES?

AREN'T
YOU SIX
FRIENDS
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO WORKING
ON THIS
TOGETHER?



WHO'D
WANNA
SEE
US DO
THAT?

LOOK,
THERE'S
SOMEONE
WHO WANTS
TO SEE A
KOIZUMI-ÔTANI
COMEDY
ROUTINE AT
THE PARTY.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
IT'S
ALMOST
GRADUA-
TION.



WE'RE
GONNA
BE
PRETTY
BUSY.



NO
THANKS!!

A
PARTING
MEMORY!

I
WOULDN'T
MIND
SEEING
IT.

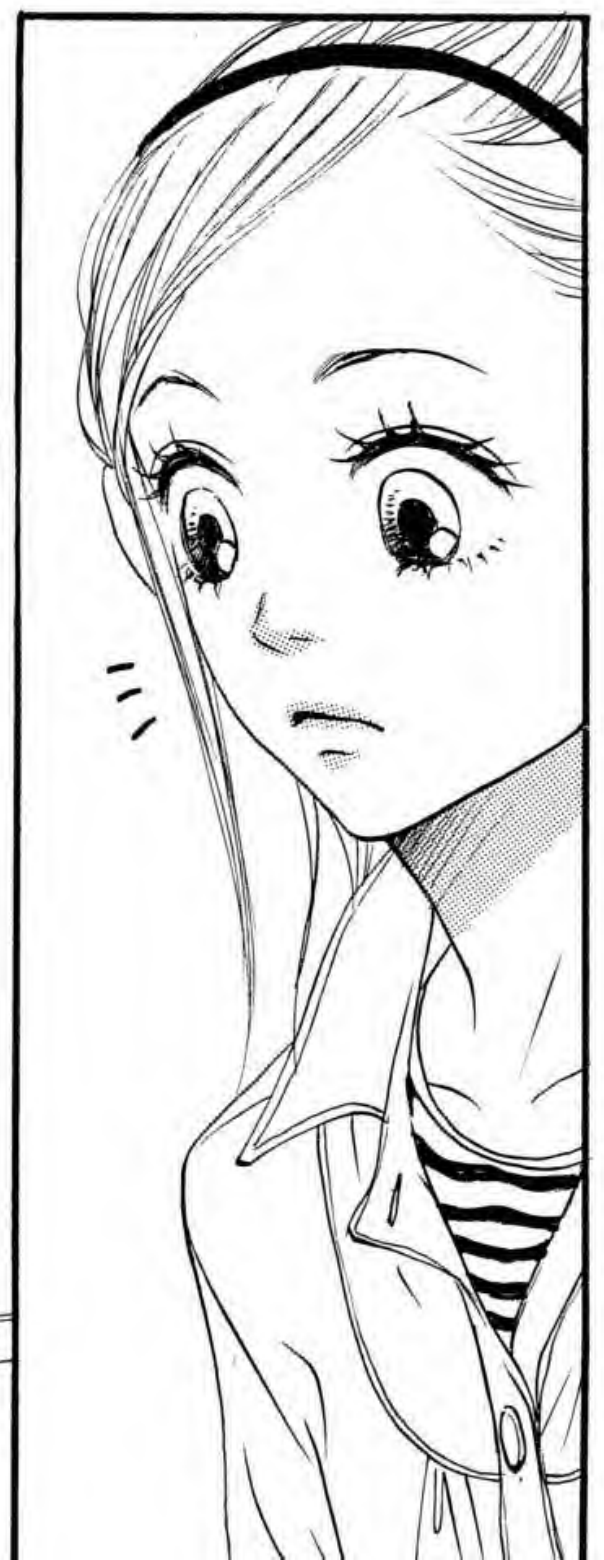


WHY
DON'T WE
PLAN THE
GRADUATION
PARTY
FIRST?

LET'S PUT
TOGETHER
A COLLEC-
TION OF
MESSAGES

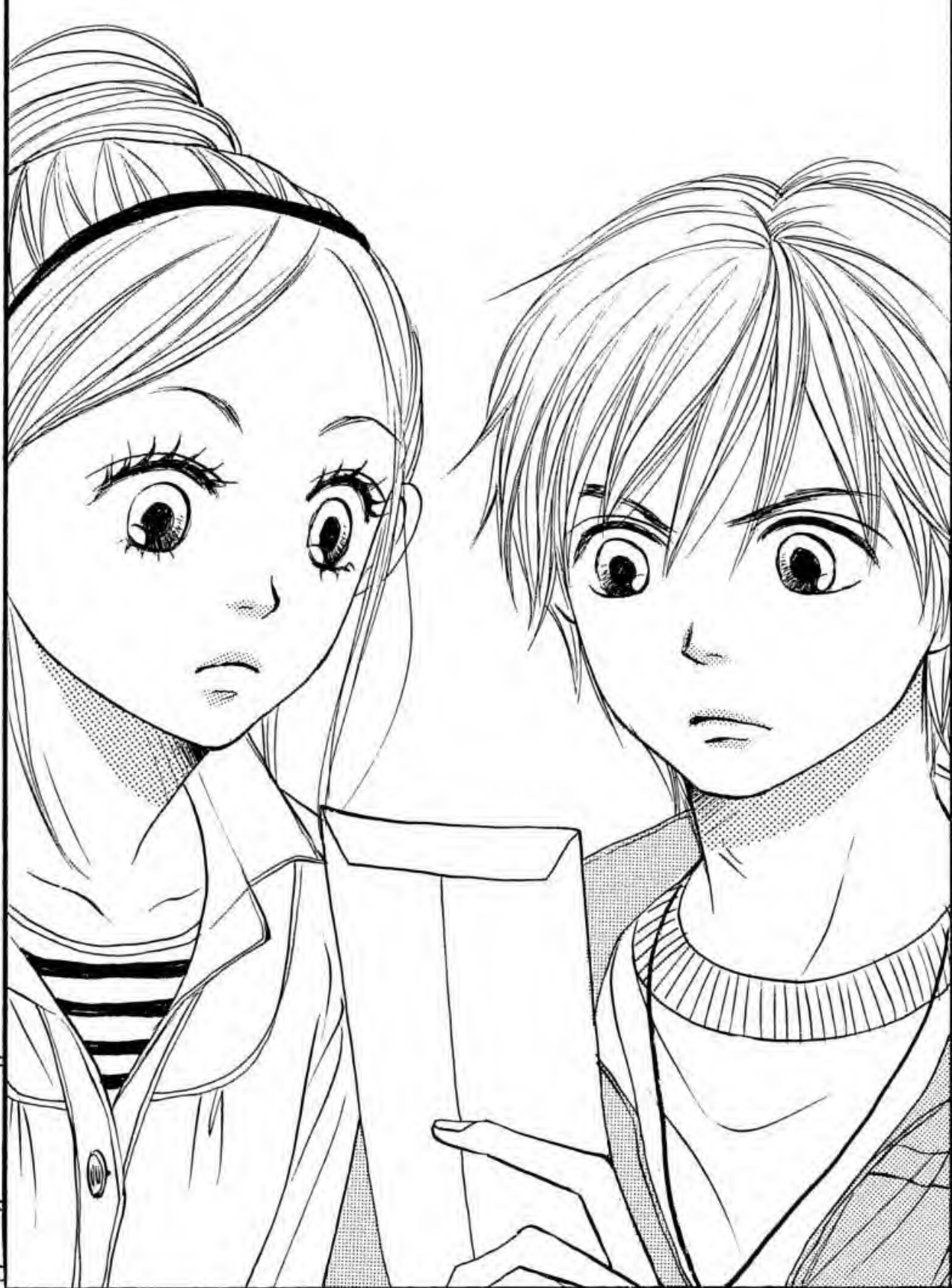
...FROM
THE
GRADU-
ATING
CLASS.







HUH?



HE'S
BEEN
GONE
LONGER.

THE
CAPTAIN
TOO?



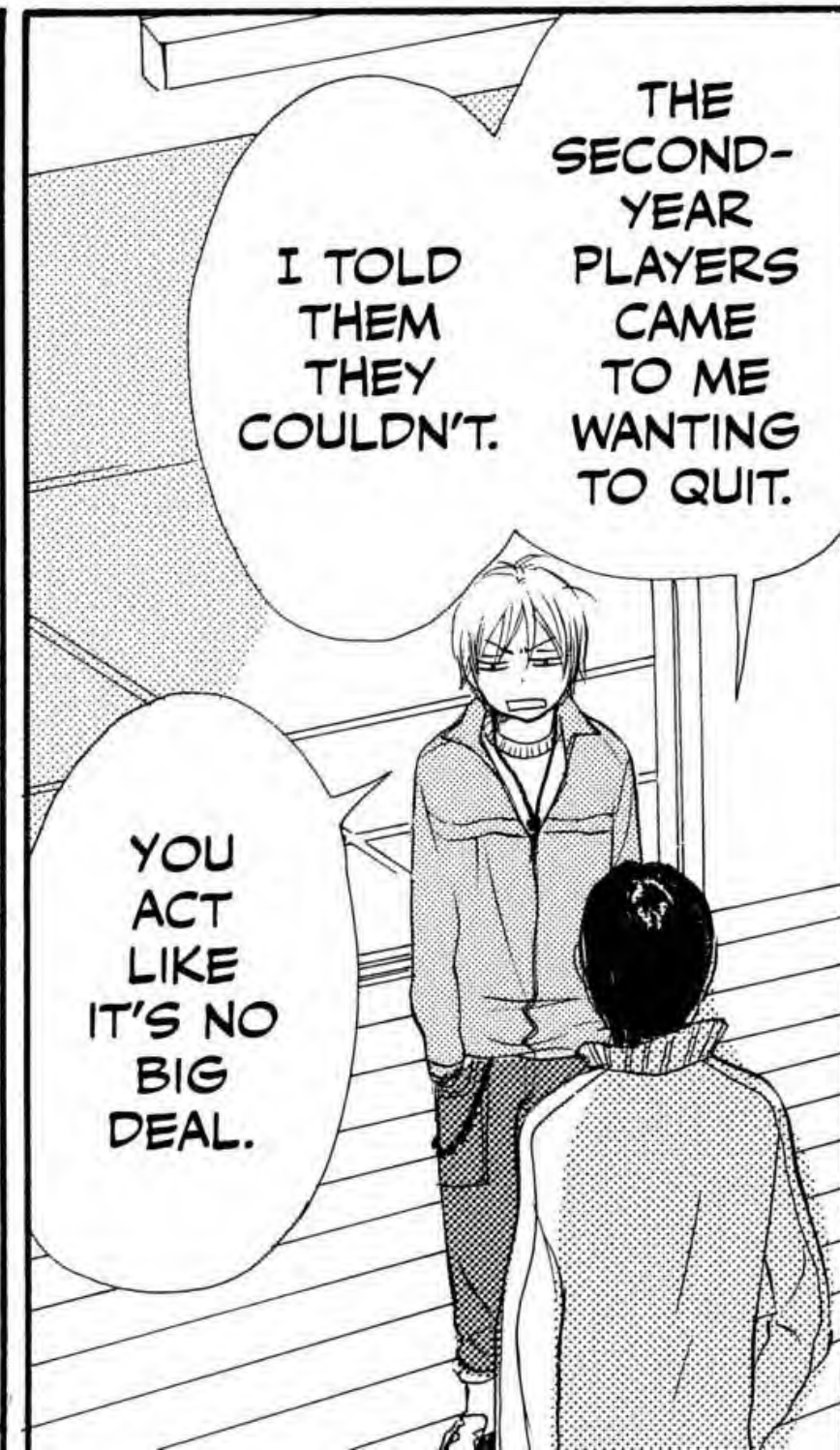
ÔTANI-
KUN!

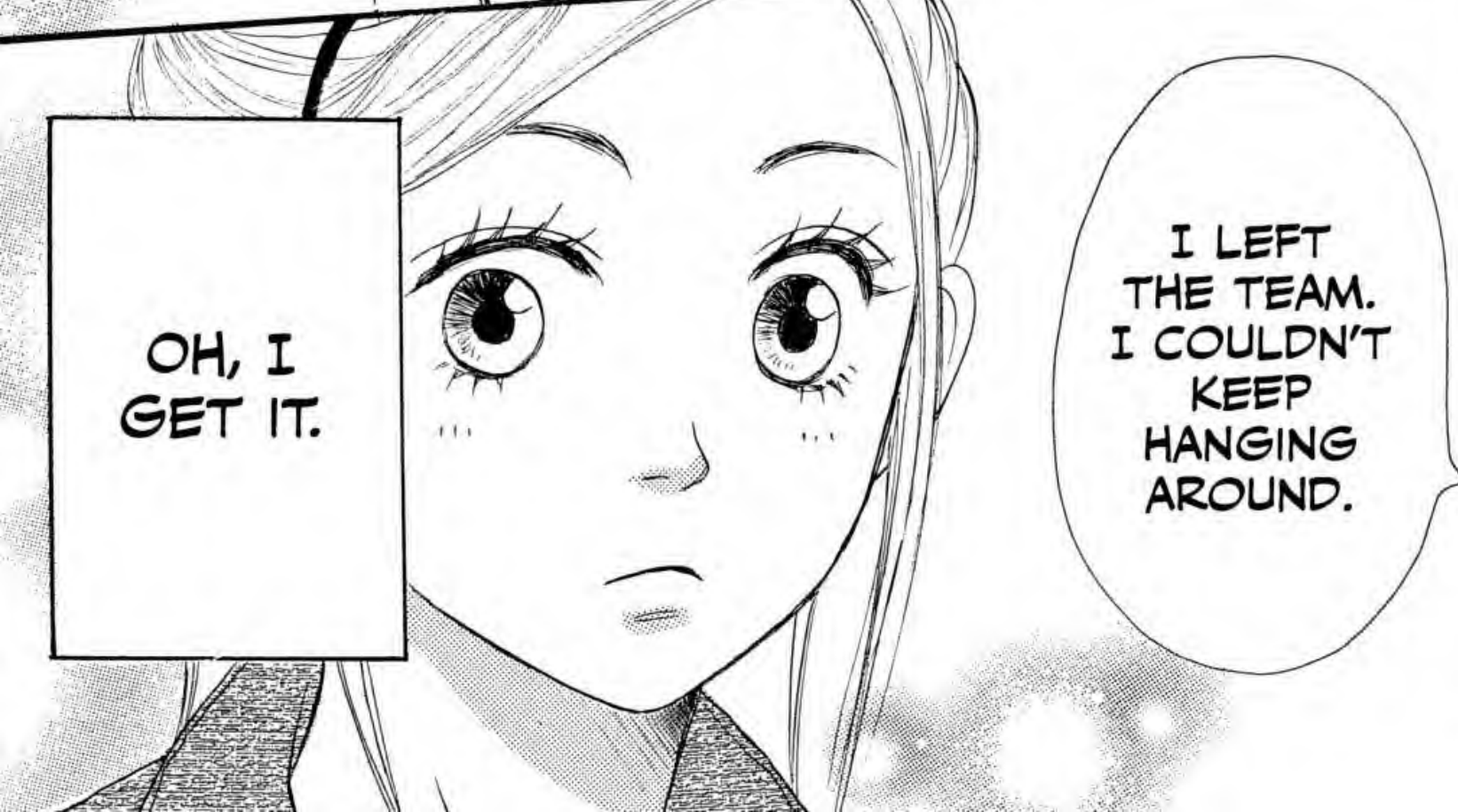
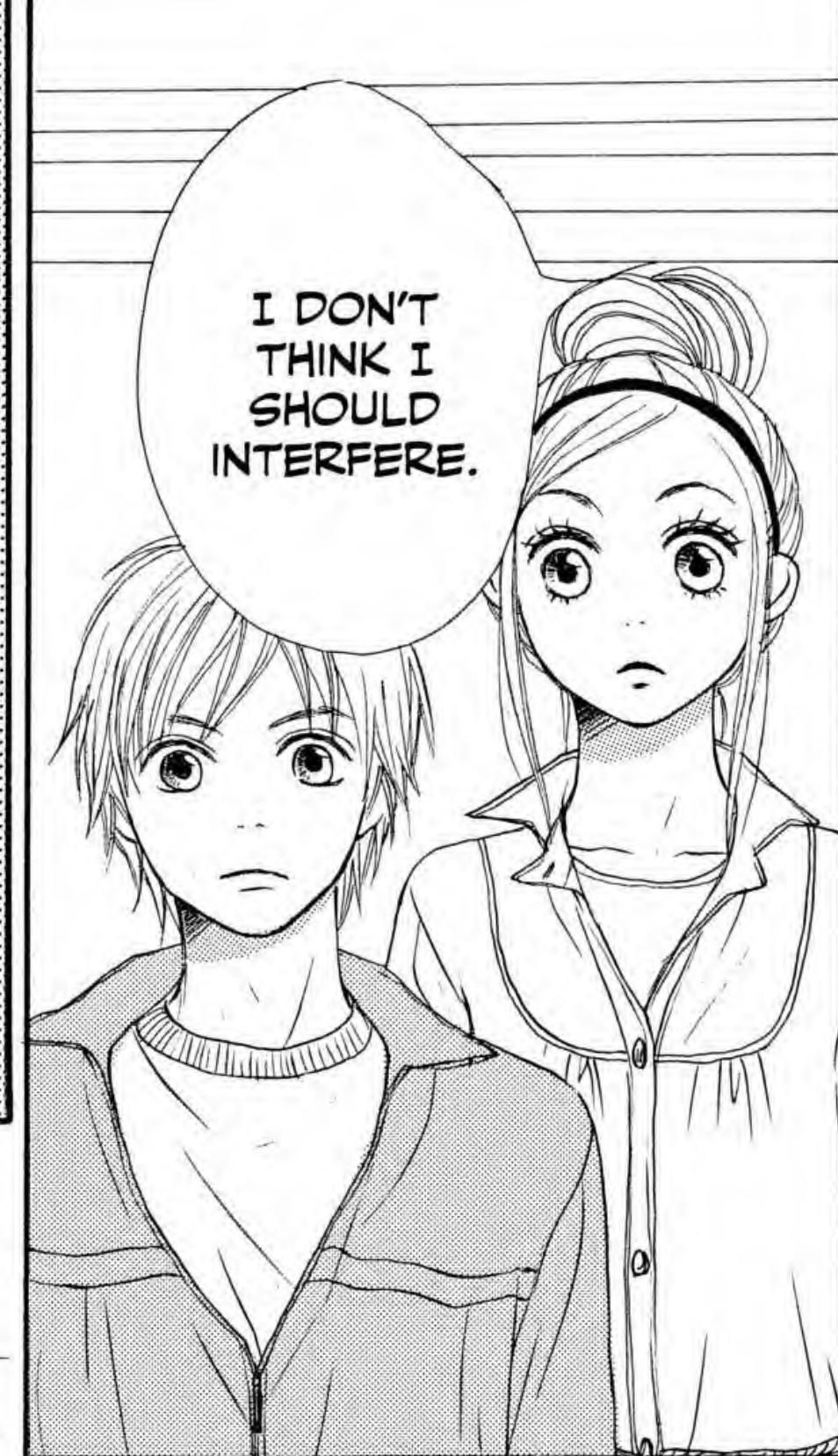
WE HAVE A
SCRIMMAGE
THE DAY
AFTER
TOMORROW.
WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
WE'RE
GONNA DO.



WHAT?
THE
SECOND-
YEARS
HAVEN'T
BEEN
COMING TO
PRACTICE?

FOR
ABOUT
A WEEK
NOW.







DUH.

WELL,
SURE.

ARE YOU
SORRY
YOU HAD
TO QUIT
FOR GRADUA-
TION?

YEAH.



FOR
THREE
YEARS...

...HE
PLAYED
HIS
HEART
OUT.



HEY.

"SHORT-
COMINGS"?

PAT

YEAH.
DESPITE
HIS
**SHORT-
COMINGS,**
HE WAS
THE
CAPTAIN.

PAT

IF I'M
SAD,
ÔTANI
MUST
FEEL
EVEN
SADDER.



WHAT?



AREN'T
THOSE
THE GUYS
WHO
DROPPED
THE
NOTE?



Hello! Nakahara here!
I usually get into the
flow of things at
around the third
author's note in each
book. And then it's
almost over! Ha ha...

The *Love★Com* movie
is coming out on DVD
on New Year's.
Pick up a copy!

Really! Please take a
look.

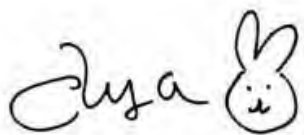
Please! Pretty please!

Please, please, please!

Please?

I'm so excited!!

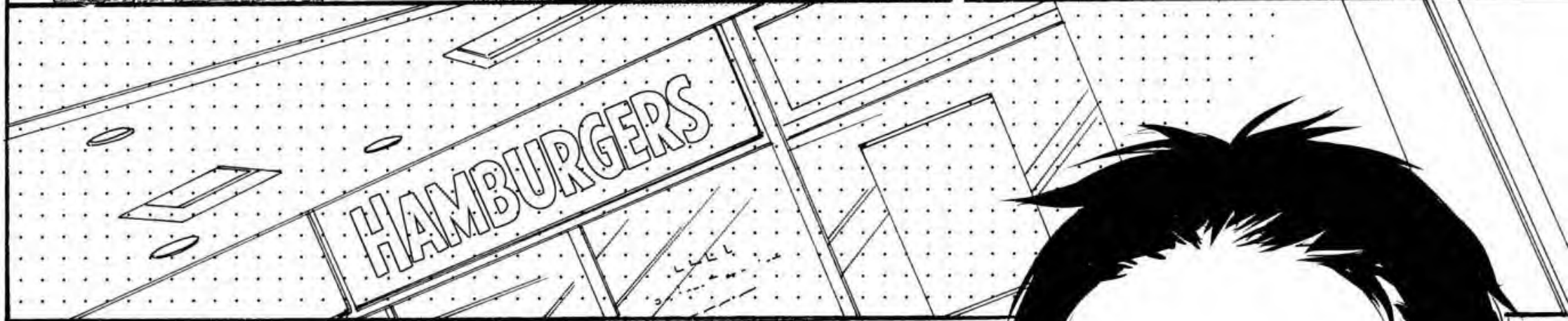
Okay, I'll back off now.
I hope we can meet
again in volume 16.



November 2006

(*Love★Com the Movie*
is available in the U.S.
from VIZ Pictures—ed.)









THERE'S
NO ONE
ELSE BUT
YOU!!

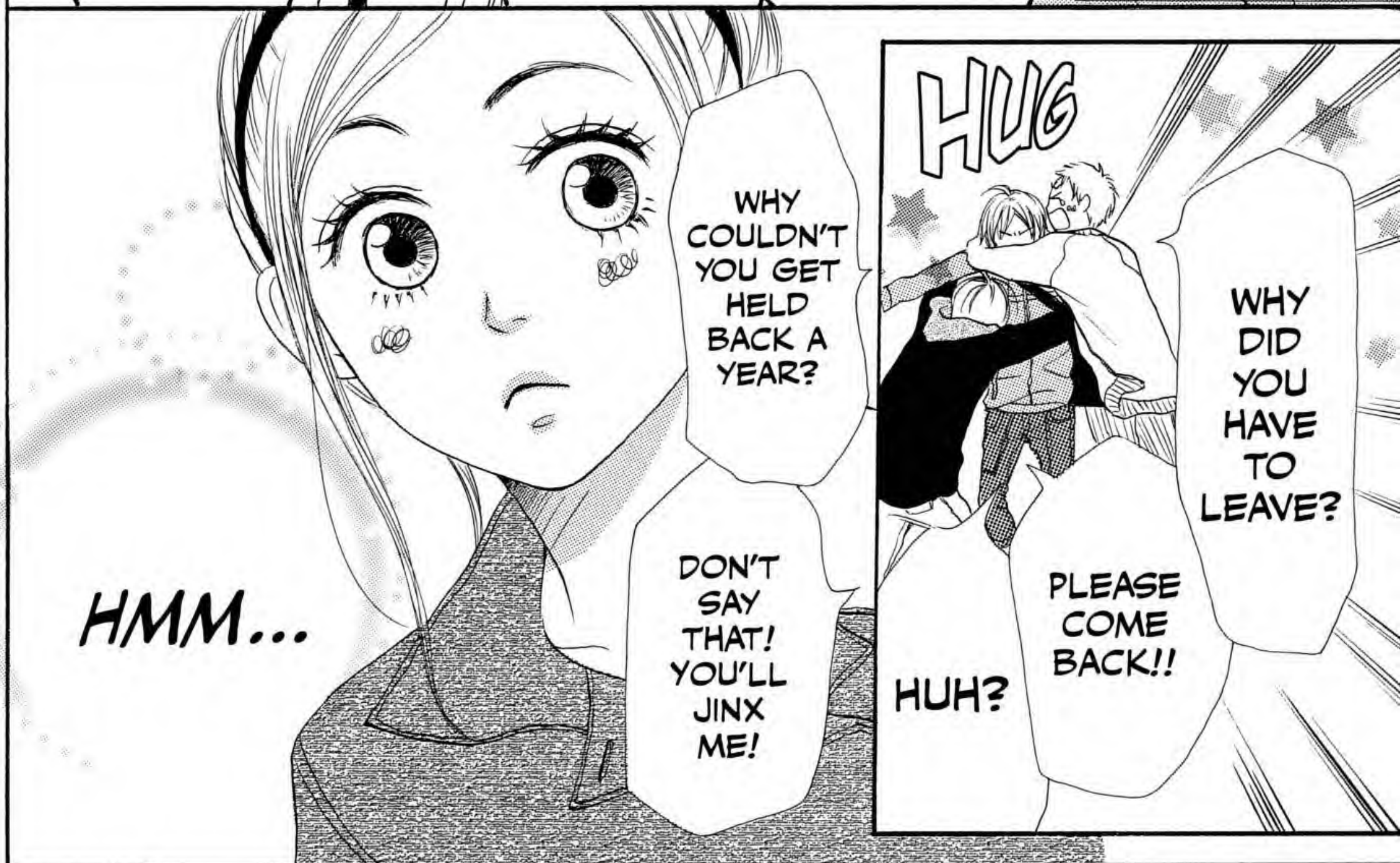
MNCH MNCH

SOB

NO ONE
CAN TAKE
YOUR
PLACE,
ÔTANI
SENPAI!

I UNDER-
STAND
HIS PAIN
ALL TOO
WELL!

THE
HECK?



HMM...

WHY
COULDN'T
YOU GET
HELD
BACK A
YEAR?

DON'T
SAY
THAT!
YOU'LL
JINX
ME!

HUG

WHY
DID
YOU
HAVE
TO
LEAVE?

PLEASE
COME
BACK!!

HUH?



THE
FIRST-
YEARS
ARE
FREAKING
OUT!

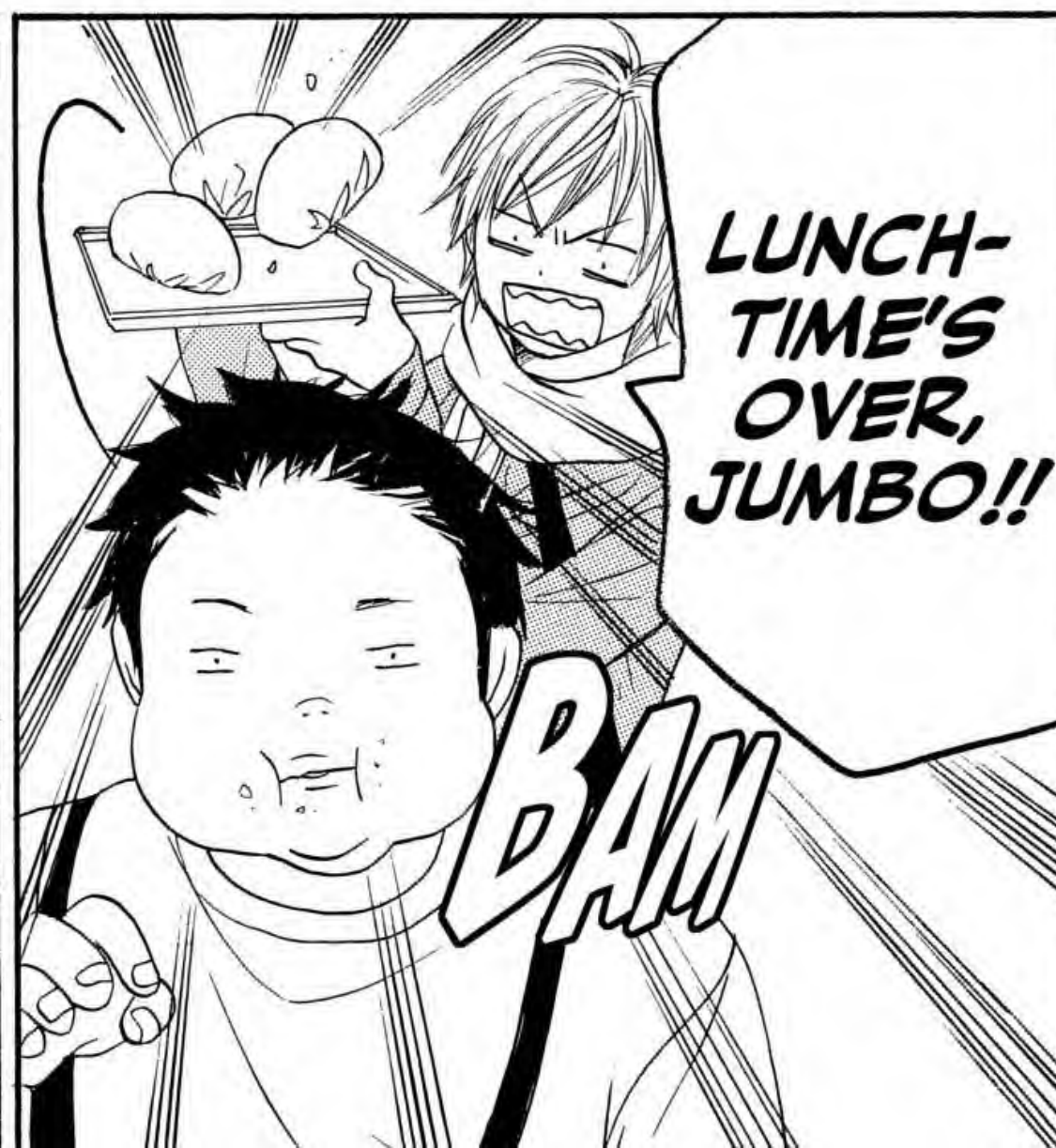
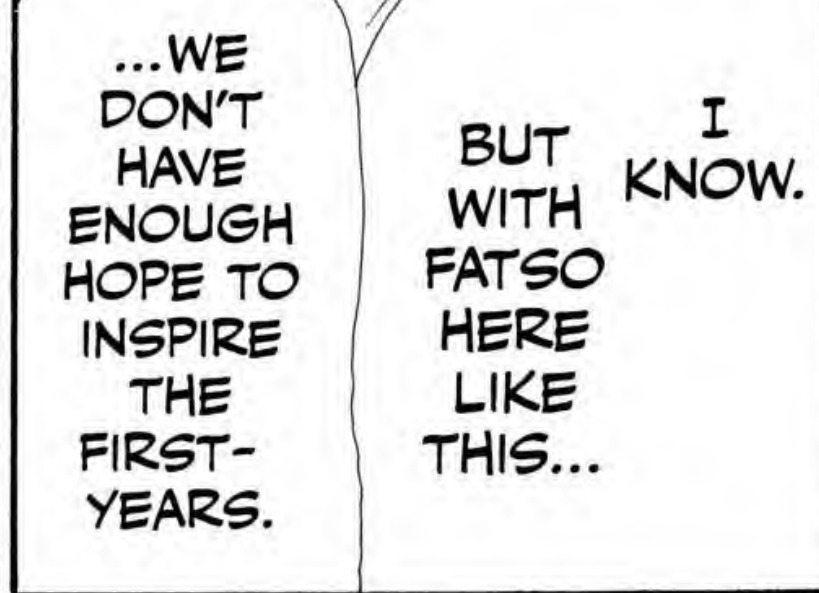
YOU
GUYS
ARE
HOPE-
LESS!



NUDGE

THEY
REALLY
THINK
HIGHLY
OF YOU.

...





YOU'RE ON A DIET STARTING NOW! AND YOU'RE BACK ON THE TEAM!!

BUT I CAN'T PLAY BASKETBALL IN THE SHAPE I'M IN...



GET YOUR BUTTS TO THE CLUB!!

WITHOUT YOU GUYS THERE'S NO TEAM!

THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF YOU SECOND-YEARS.

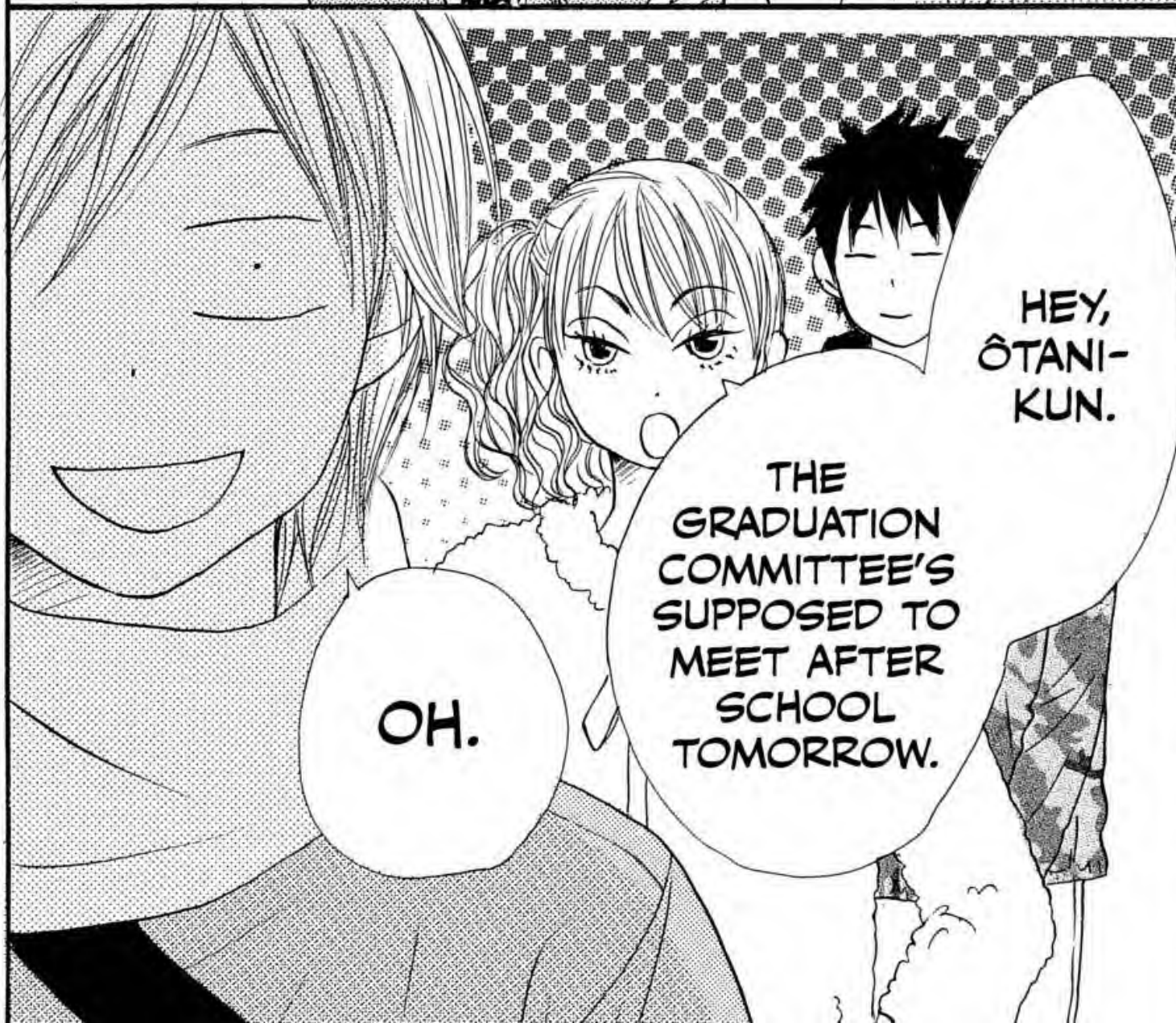


GUESS I'VE GOTTA BEAT SOME COURAGE INTO YOU WIMPS.

REALLY?



WE CAN'T FACE THE FIRST-YEARS ...NOT AFTER SCREWING THINGS UP SO BADLY.



HEY, ÔTANI-KUN.

THE GRADUATION COMMITTEE'S SUPPOSED TO MEET AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW.

OH.

OH, FOR... IF YOU'RE THAT WUSSY, I'LL GO WITH YOU TOMORROW!!



GO
SHOW 'EM,
CAPTAIN!
THIS IS
YOUR LAST
HURRAH!



IT'S
OKAY.

YEAH?

I'LL
PICK
UP THE
SLACK
FOR
YOU.



BOW
DOWN
BEFORE
HER
MASSIVE
BULK.

A
GOD-
DESS?
MORE
LIKE A
COLOS-
SUS.

YES,
SIR!!

WHAT?



YOU'RE
OUR
GOD-
DESS!!

THANK
YOU!!

AW,
YOU'RE
EMBAR-
RASSING
ME.



KOIZUMI...



I'LL BE THERE...

AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY YOU'LL BE THERE TOO, DARLING?



ALL RIGHT! MAKE SURE YOU'RE THERE TOMORROW!!

R I G H T !!



Bye-bye!

GO DO YOUR BEST.

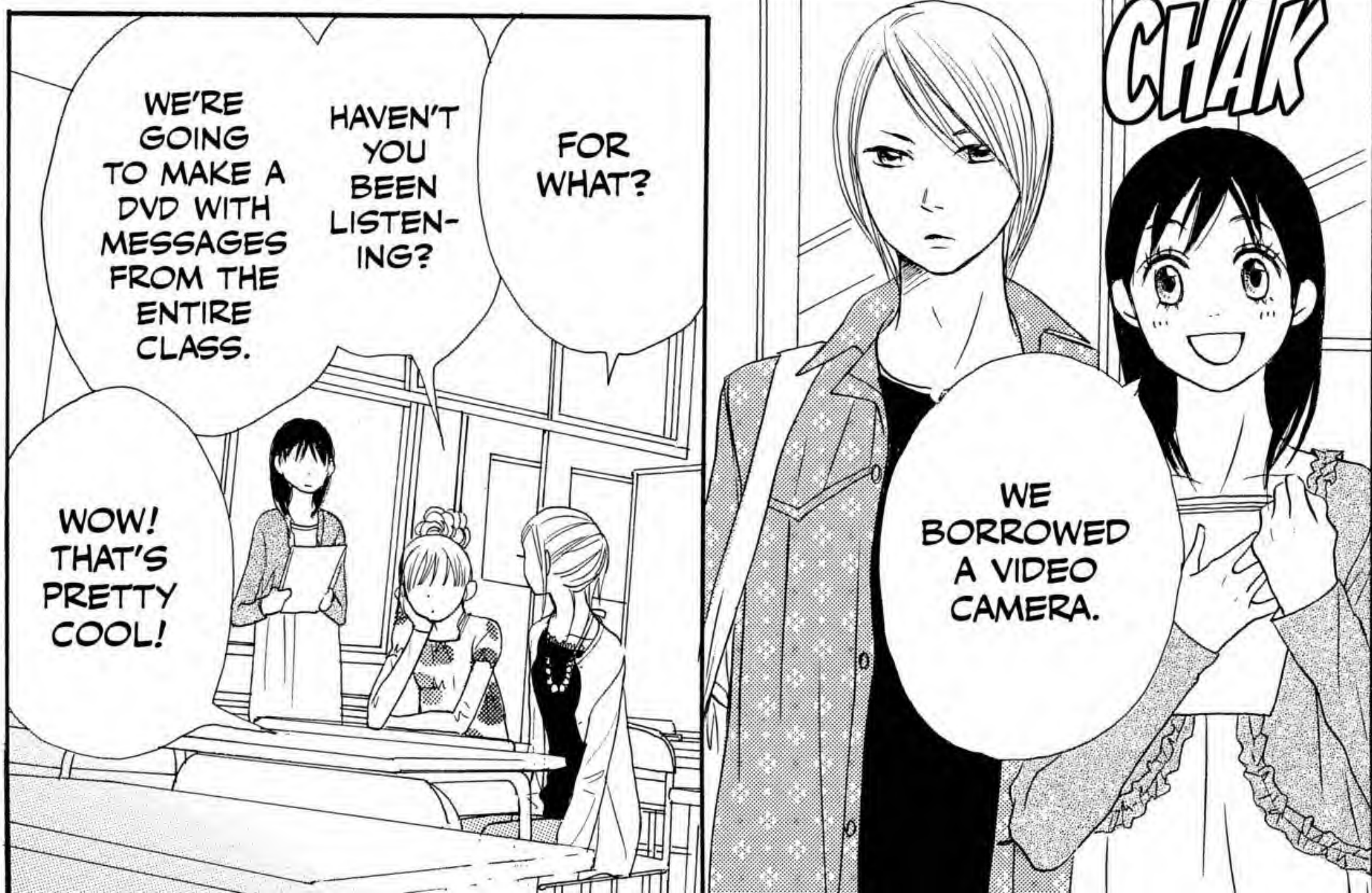
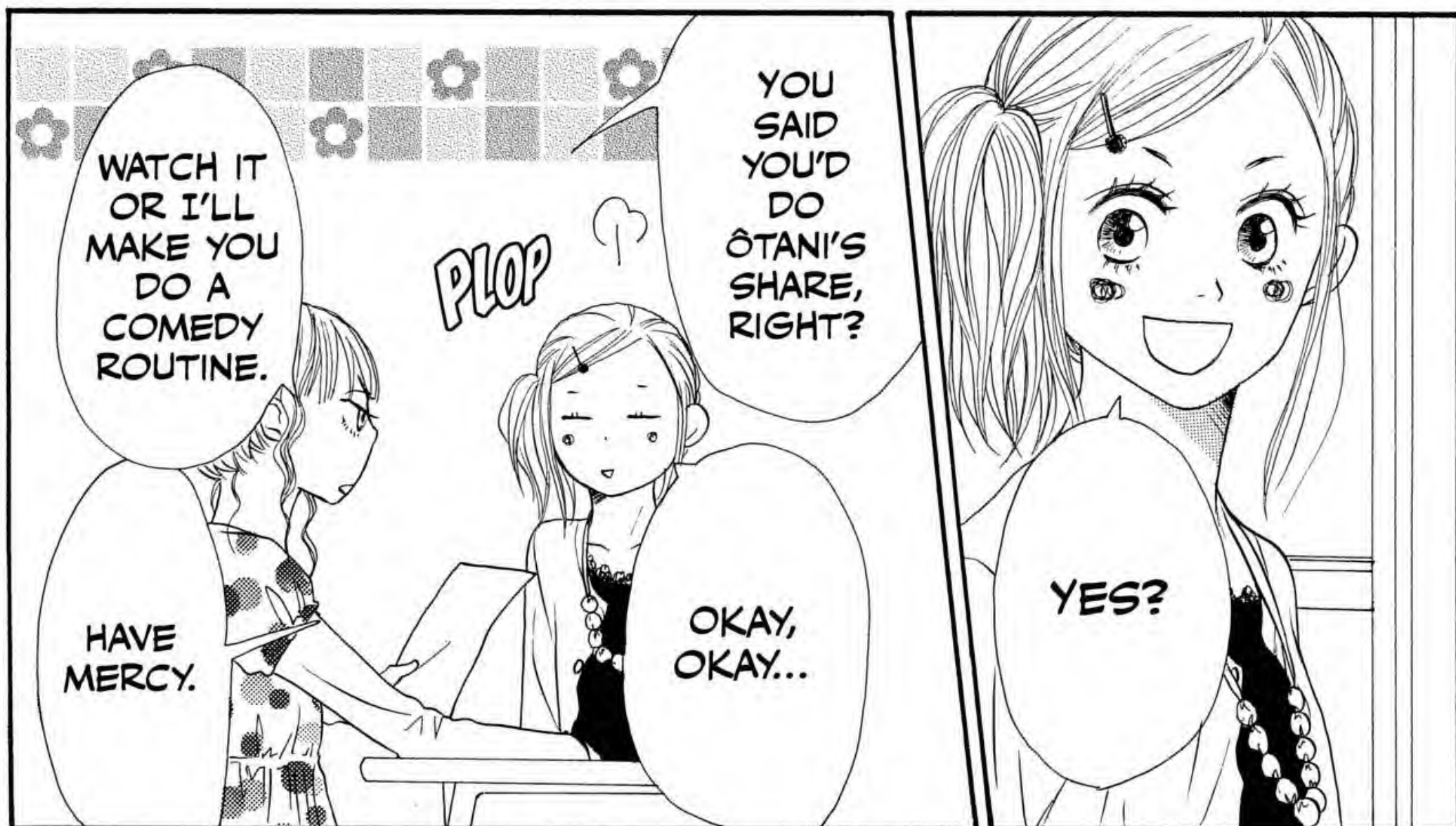
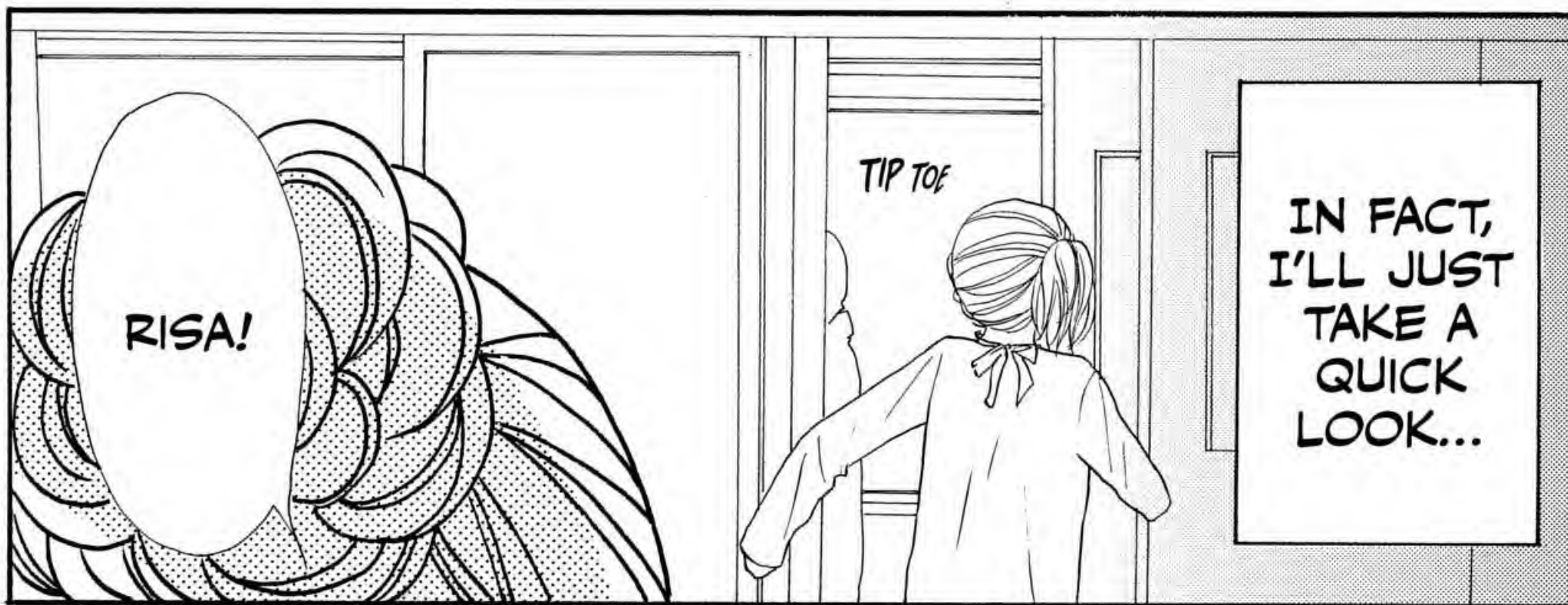
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE ON THE COURT TOO, ÔTANI.

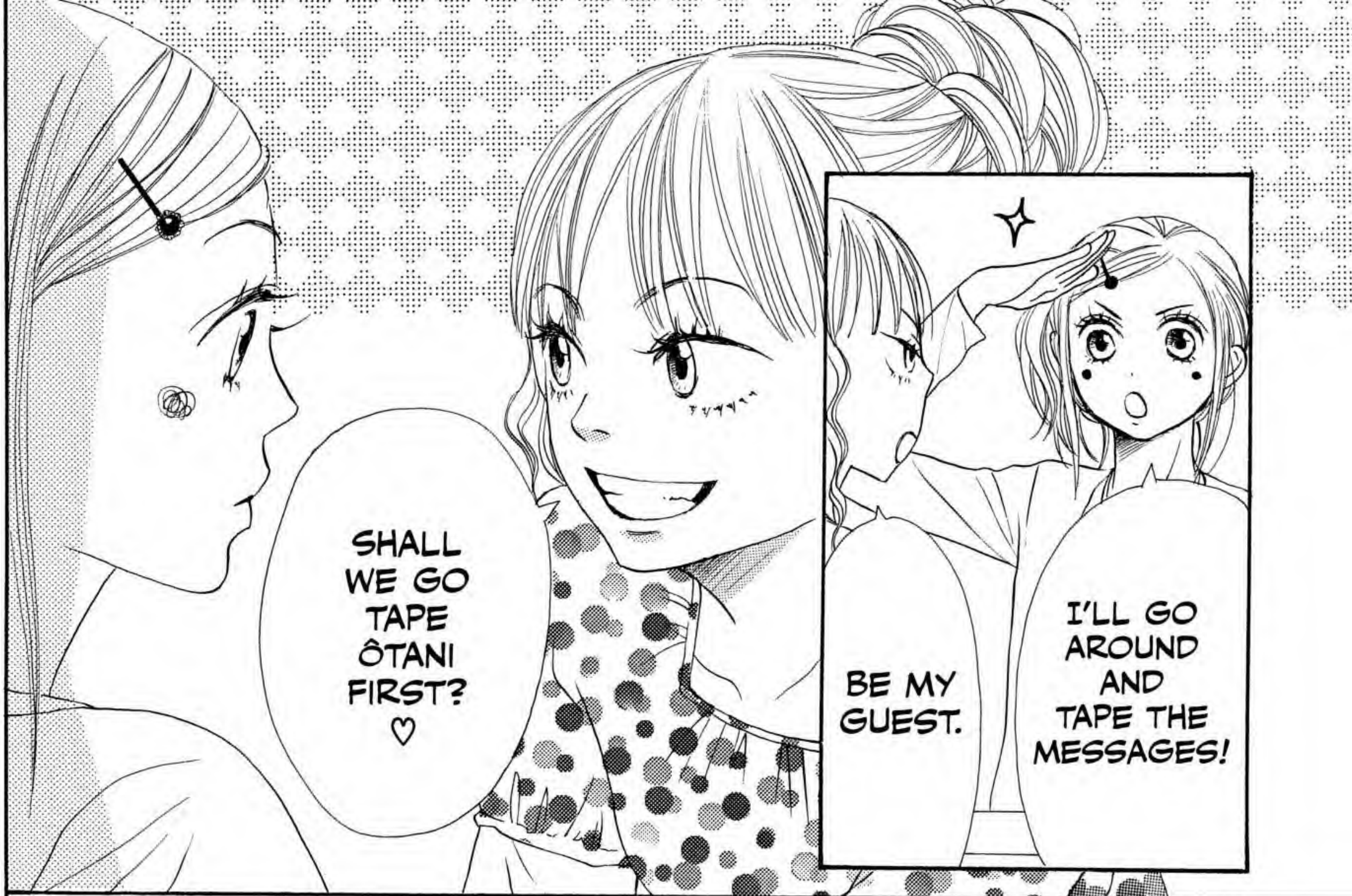


SHEESH.

EVERY-ONE'S RELYING ON YOU.

OH, COME ON. IT'S ALL RIGHT.







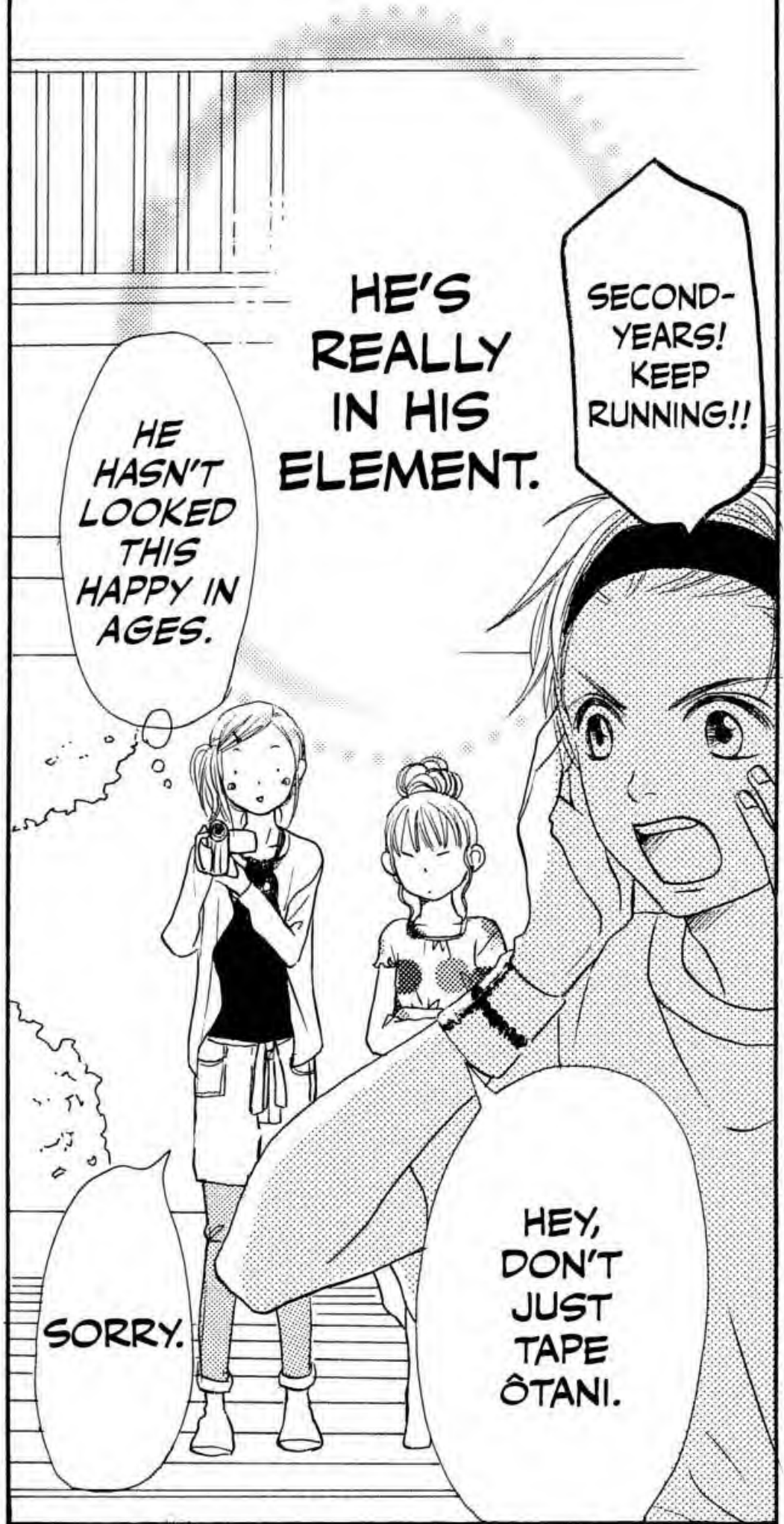
YOU BROUGHT IT ON YOUR-SEVES, SLUGS!

SENPAI, CAN WE TAKE A BREAK? THIS IS TOUGH...



IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE REALLY PLAYING BASKET-BALL!

I GUESS PRACTICE *HAS* TO BE TOUGH, HUH?



HE'S REALLY IN HIS ELEMENT.

SECOND-YEARS! KEEP RUNNING!!

HE HASN'T LOOKED THIS HAPPY IN AGES.

SORRY.

HEY, DON'T JUST TAPE ÔTANI.



SORRY, SENPAI!

Ha Ha Ha &3



WHAAP

OWW!

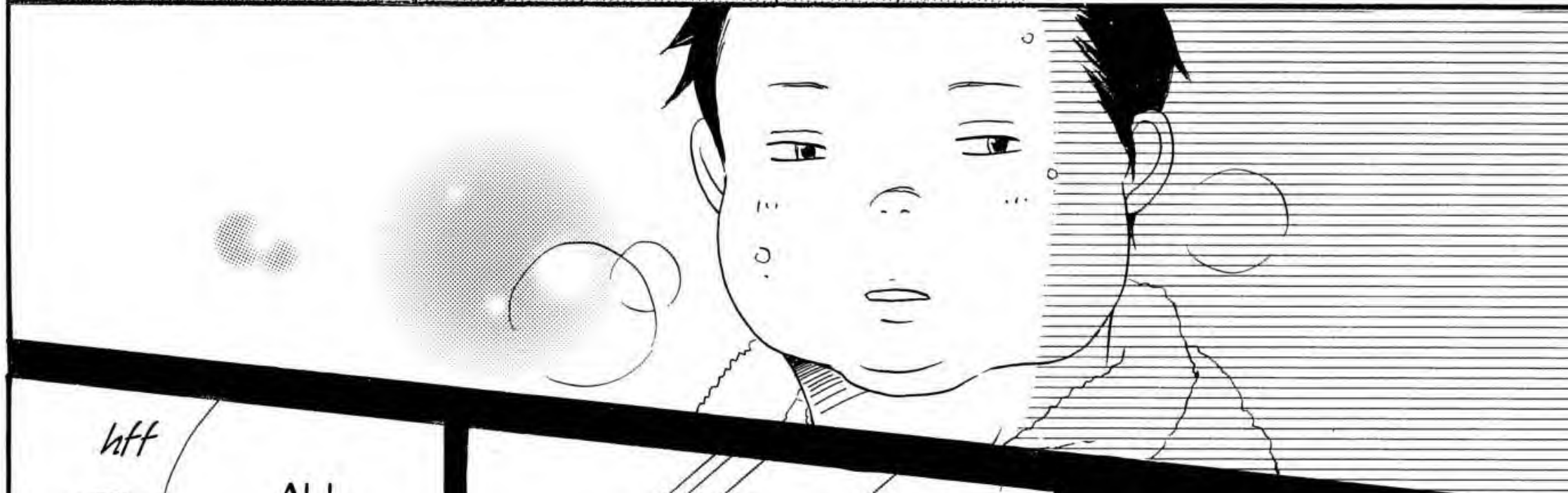
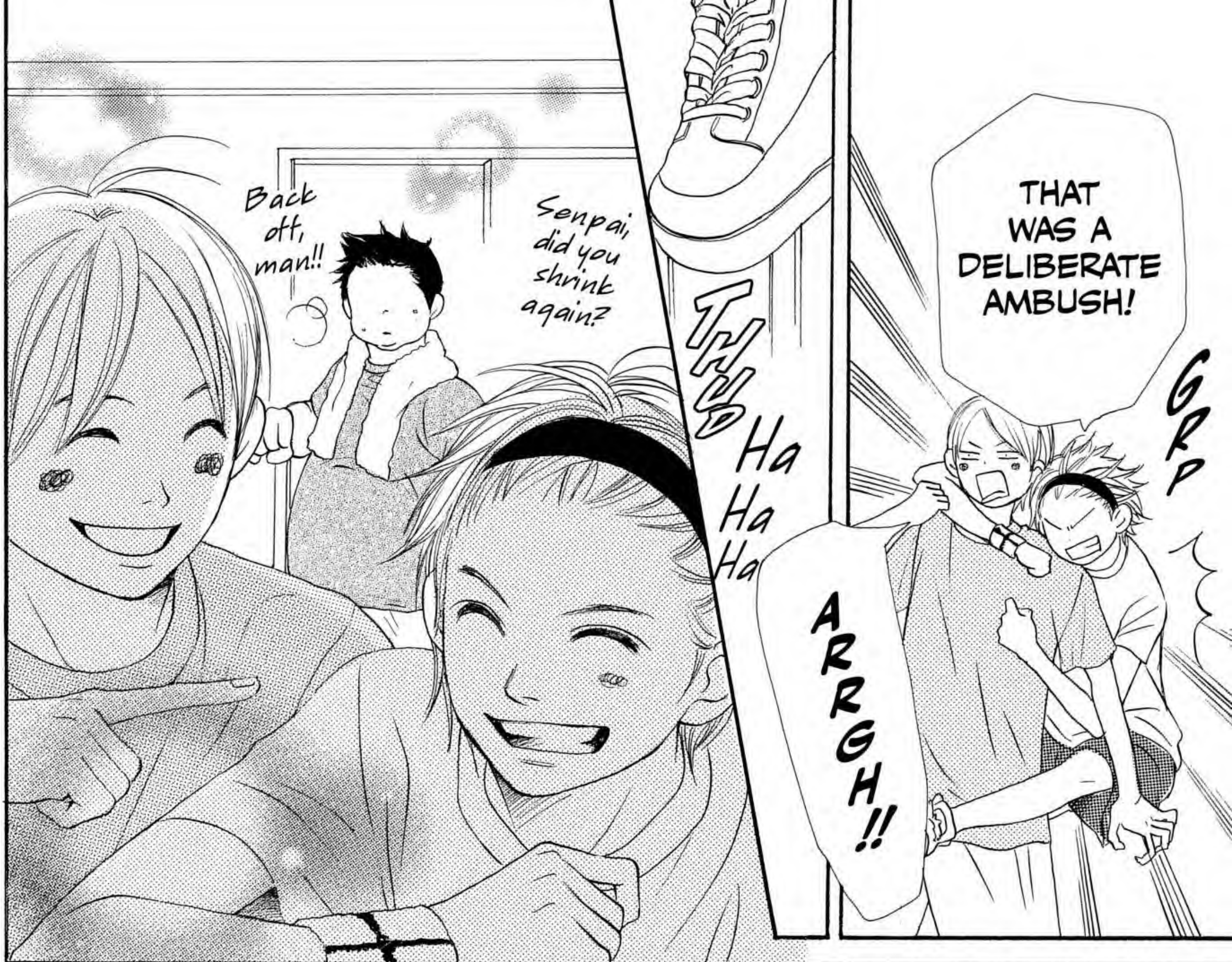
HA HA HA

WHAT'VE YOU BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW?

THUD

THUD

THUD







EVERYONE
PREFERS
YOU.

WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING?
I...



IF YOU'RE
GONNA
BE THERE,
ÔTANI
SENSEI,
I DON'T
NEED TO
COME.



COME
TO THE
SCRIMMAGE
TOMORROW.

...



THAT'S...

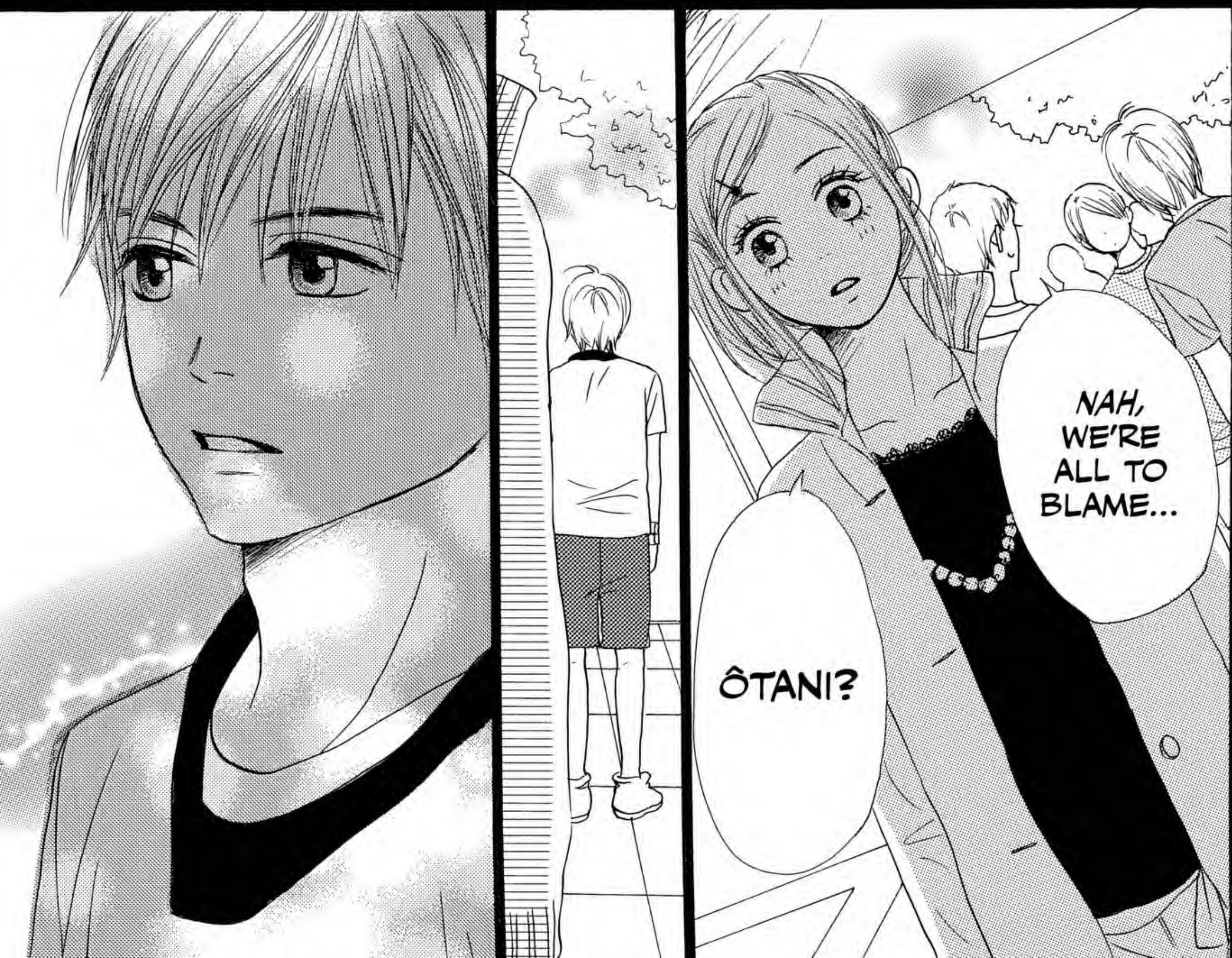
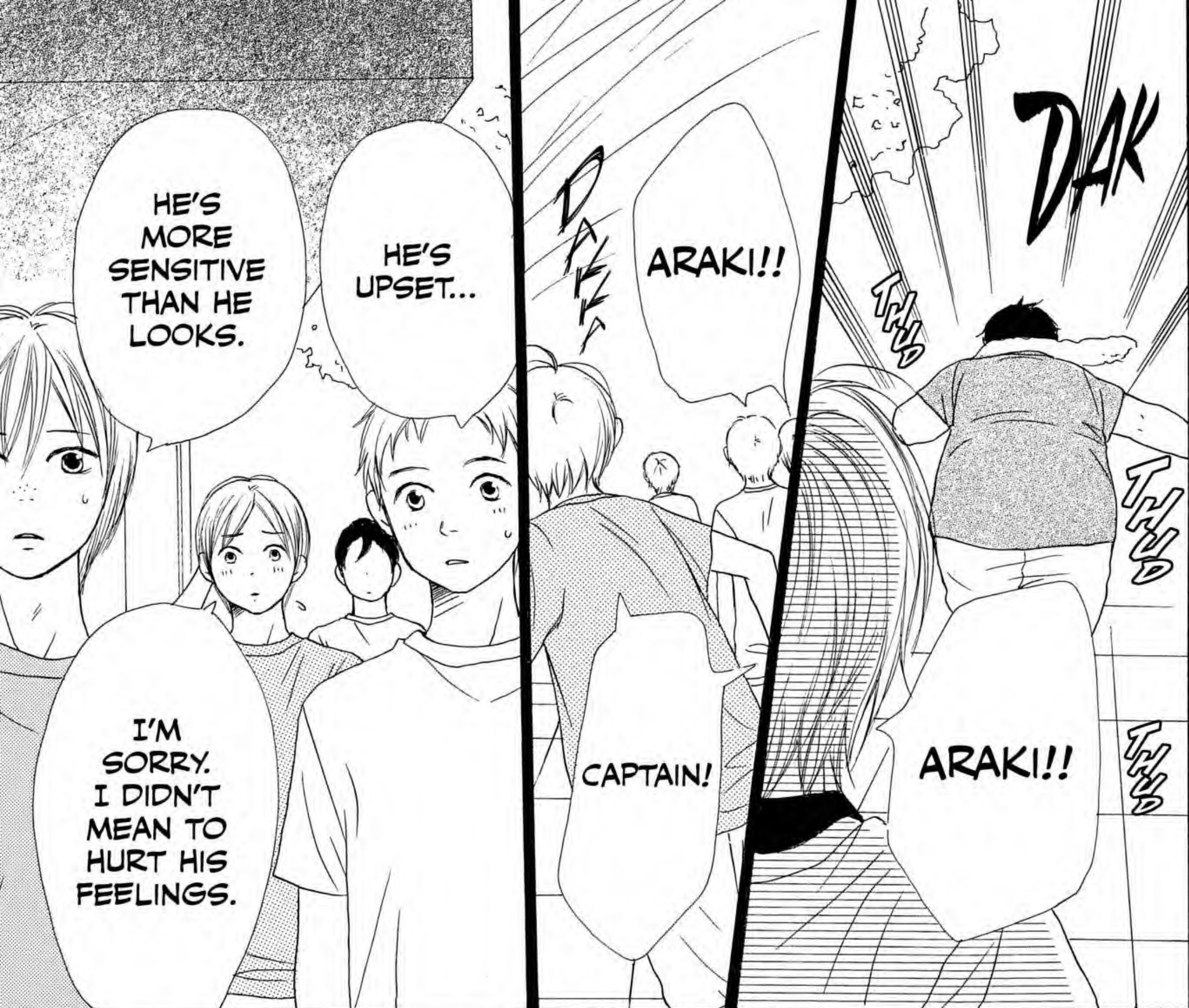
DON'T
TAKE
PITY ON
A FAT
SLOB
LIKE
ME!!



THANKS FOR
CONFIRMING
IT FOR ME.

BOW

I UNDER-
STAND.
I'M NOT
FIT TO
BE THE
CAPTAIN.



blah

blah

blah

I FEEL
TERRIBLE
ABOUT
THE TEAM.

...

OKAY,
ÔTANI!

DO YOUR
UMIBÔZU
IMPERSON-
ATION!

WHAT
IF THEY
ALL
QUIT?

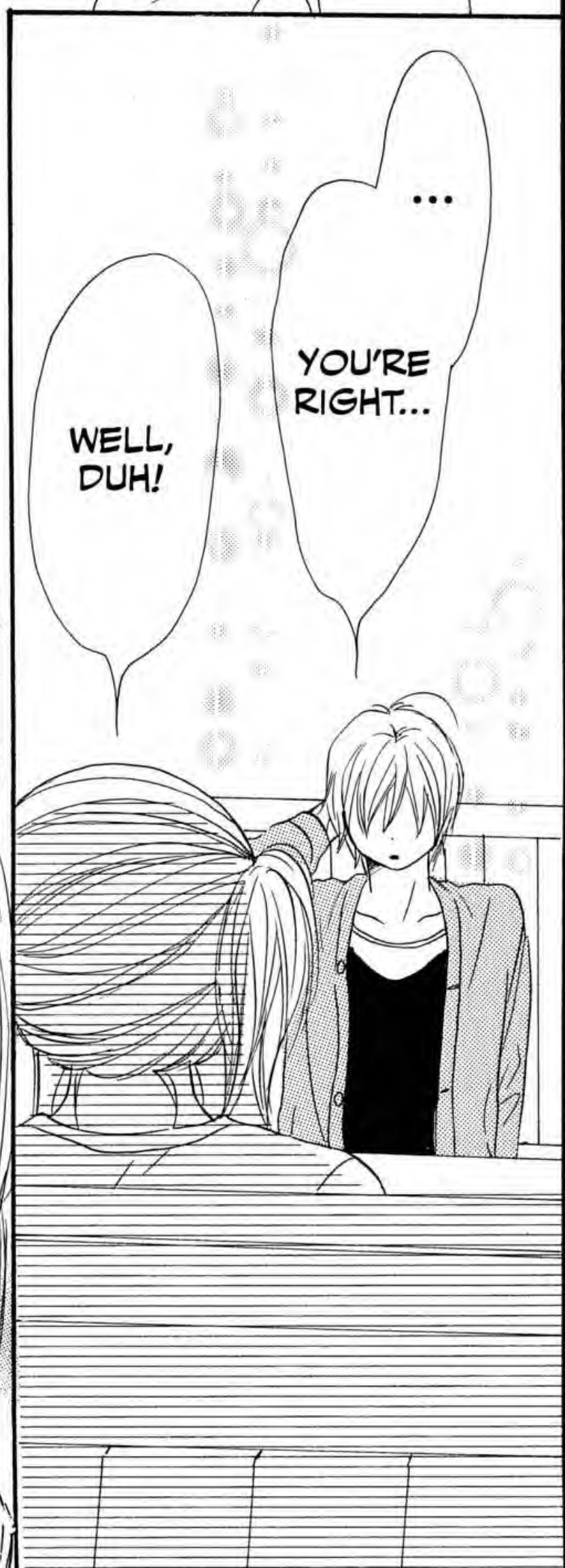
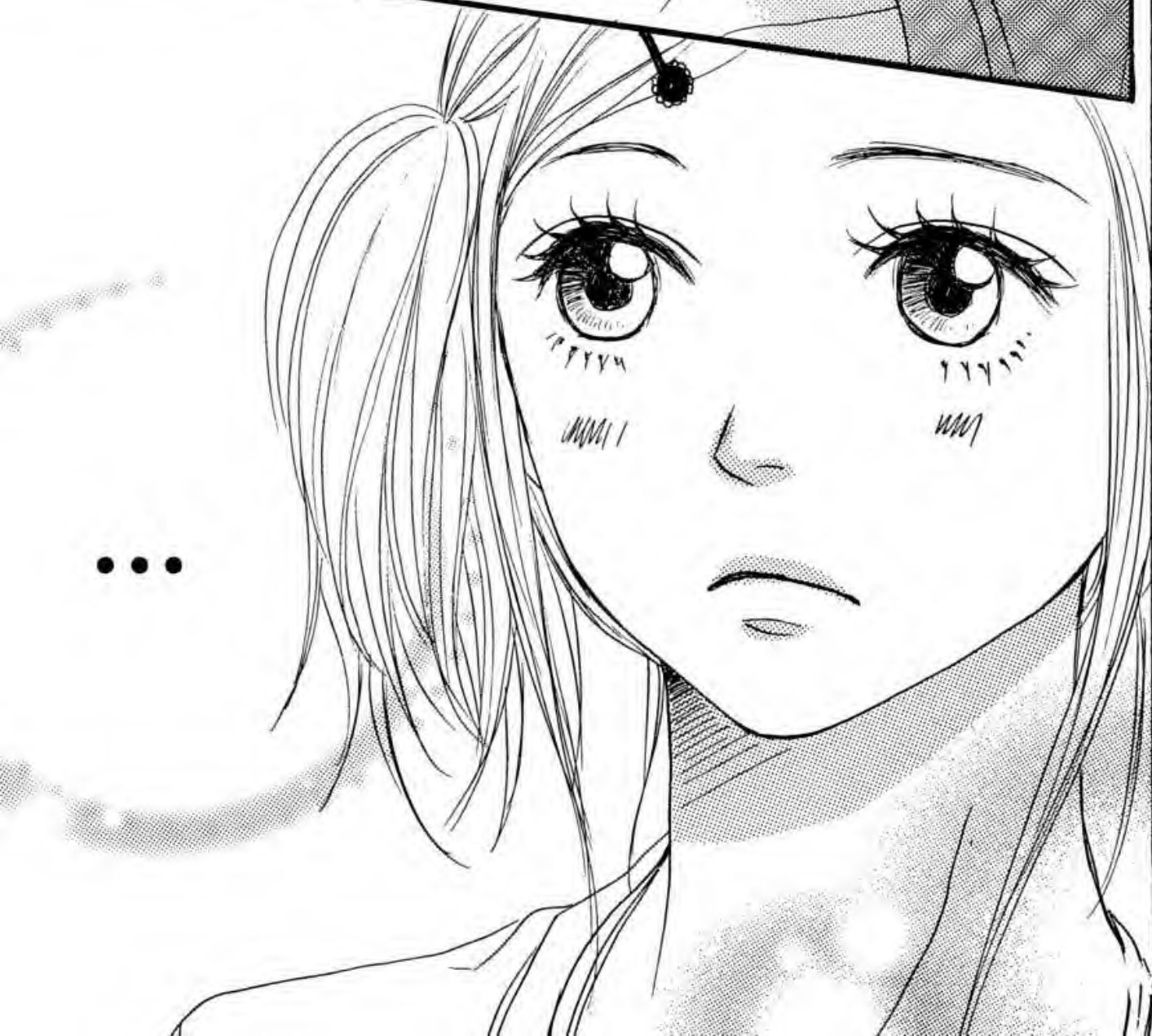
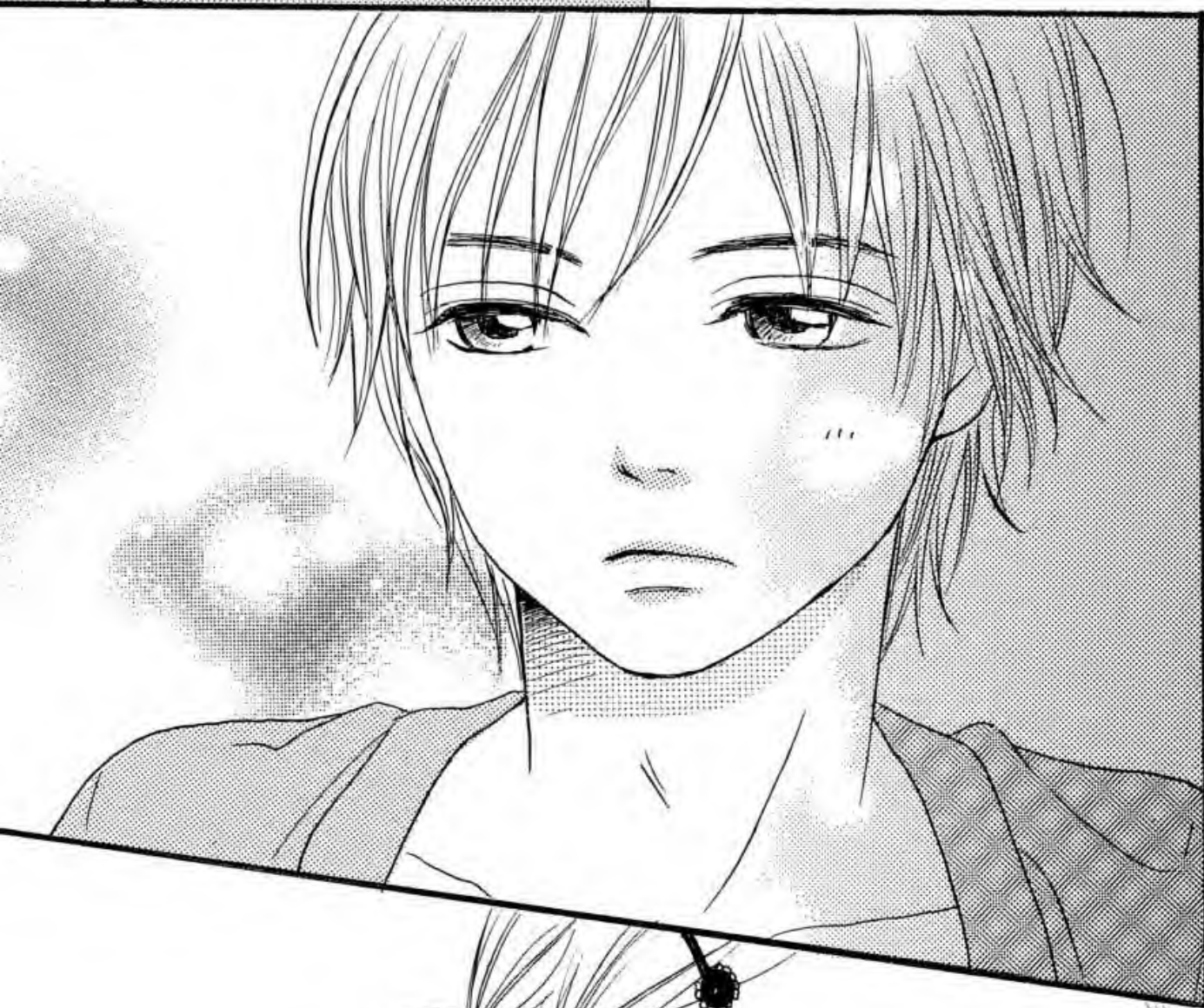
AW
MAN...
I'M SUCH
A JACK-
ASS.

DON'T
BE.

IF YOU
HADN'T
DONE ANY-
THING IT
WOULD'VE
BEEN DIS-
BANDED,
RIGHT?

ÔTANI...

...

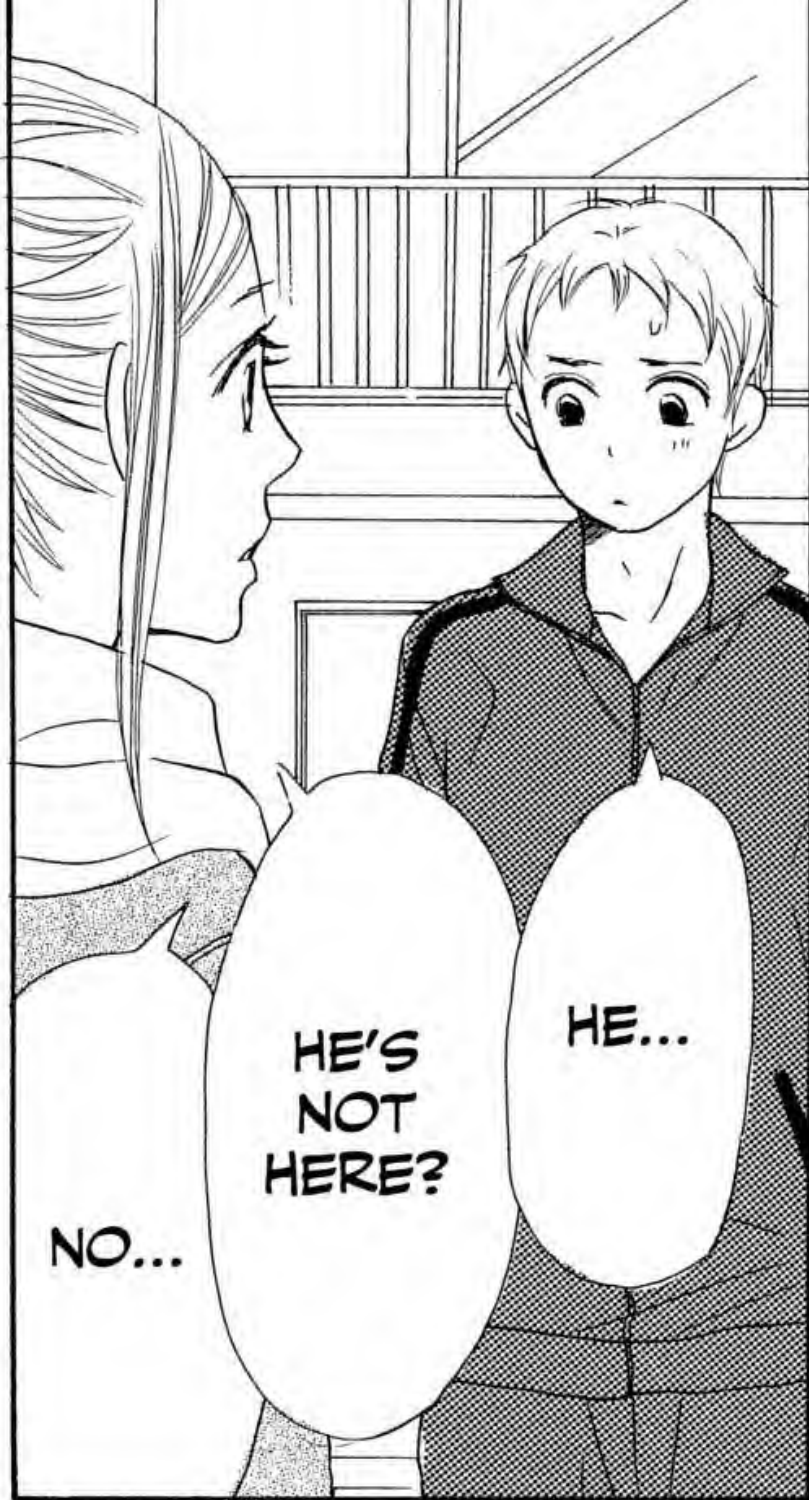






LOOKS
LIKE THE
CAPTAIN'S
AWOL.
WELL,
LET'S GET
STARTED.

I
SEE.



NO...

HE'S
NOT
HERE?

HE...



OKAY.

WE
CAN'T
KEEP THE
OTHER
TEAM
WAITING
ANY
LONGER.



shf
shf
ooo

I
FEEL...

...PRETTY
BAD FOR
THEM.





NGH...

CAPTAIN!!



THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR TWO
CAPTAINS.

I'M
RETIRED!!
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
CAPTAIN!!



BUT...

THE
GAME'S
ABOUT
TO START,
CAPTAIN!

PLEASE
COME
BACK!!



SO
DON'T
RUN
AWAY!

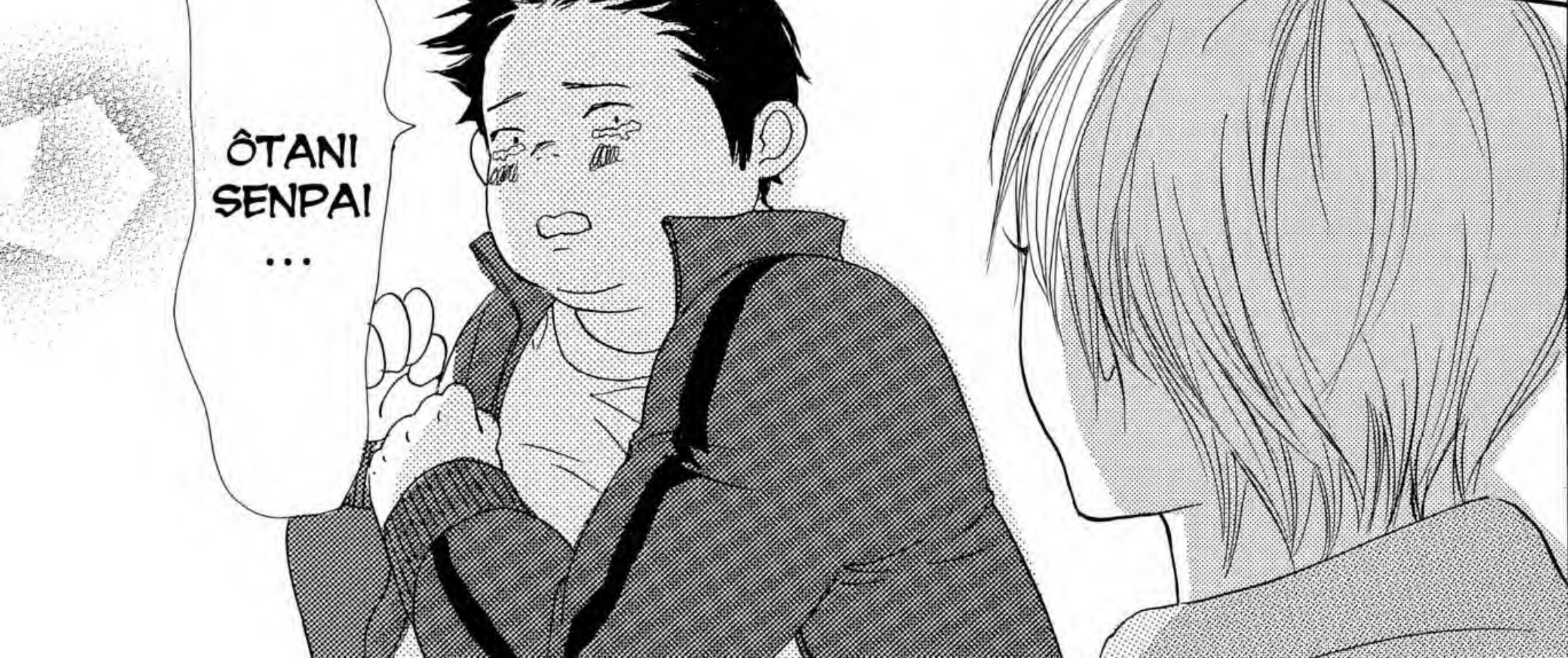


NO



YOU CAME
BY BECAUSE
YOU WERE
WORRIED
ABOUT YOUR
TEAM,
RIGHT?







SOB...

A boy with spiky black hair is crying with his eyes squeezed shut. A girl with short blonde hair is slapping his back. A speech bubble from the girl says "NOW QUIT YOUR BELLY-ACHING!". Another speech bubble from the boy says "OW!".

SLAP

**NOW
QUIT
YOUR
BELLY-
ACHING!**

OW!



A close-up of a girl with short blonde hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a zip-up jacket.

**YOU'LL
DO
FINE!**

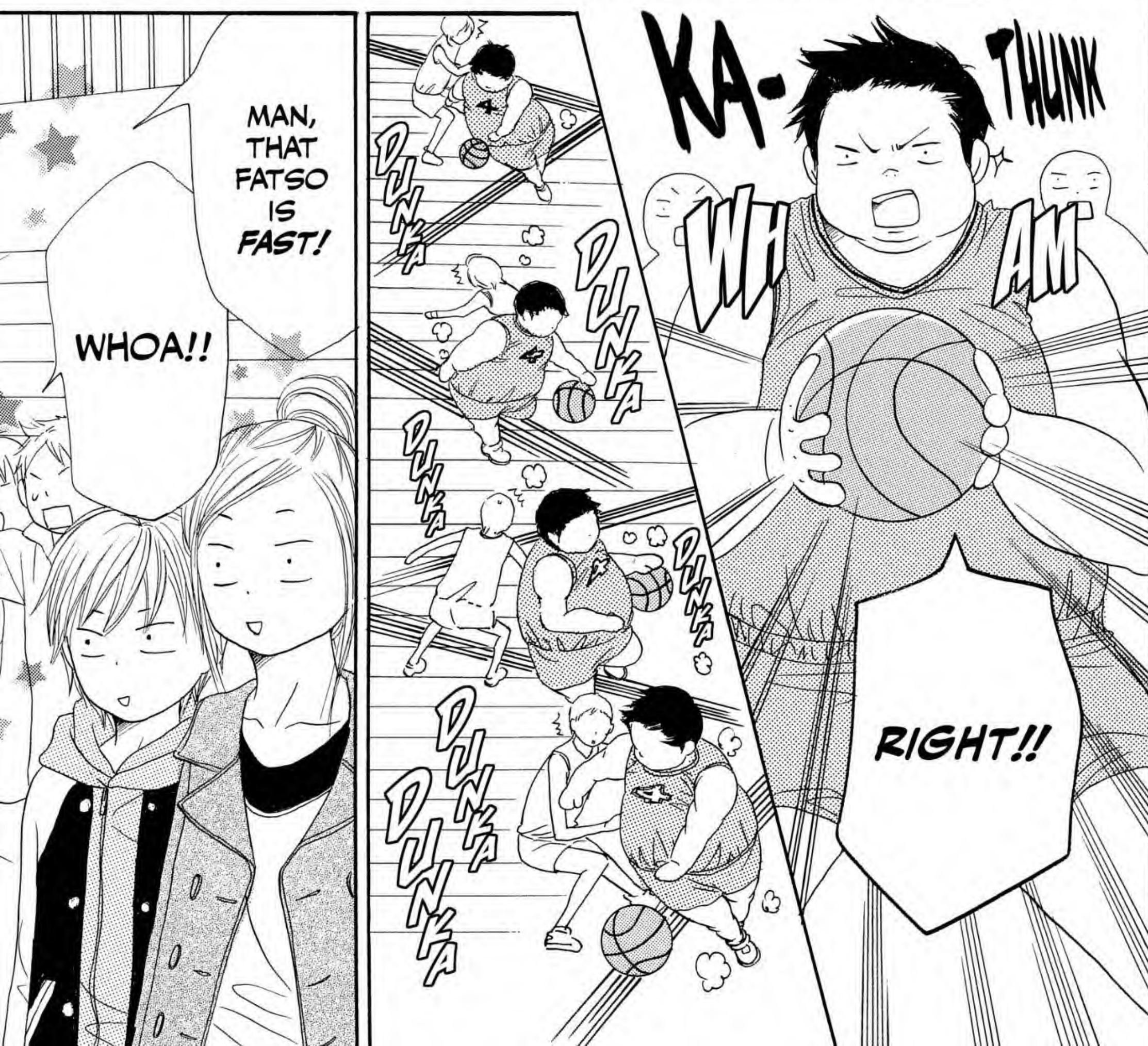


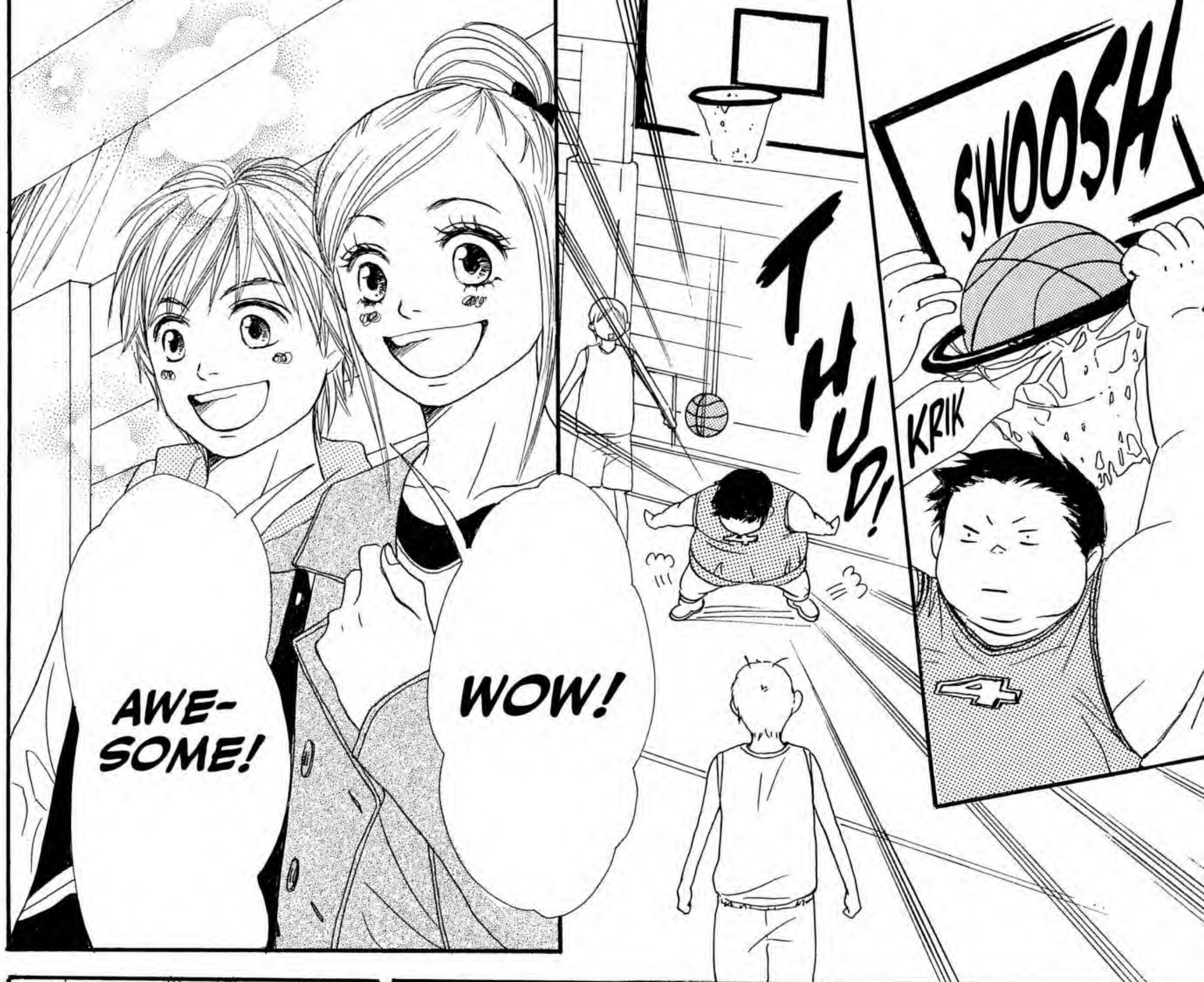
A coach with long blonde hair is addressing a group of soccer players on a field. The players are lined up. The coach says "LET'S START THE SCRIMMAGE." and "GO FOR IT!". One player says "LINE UP, GUYS."

**LINE UP,
GUYS.**

**LET'S
START
THE
SCRIM-
MAGE.**

**GO
FOR
IT!**





GO ON.
IT'S JUST A
SCRIMMAGE.

ME?

HUH?



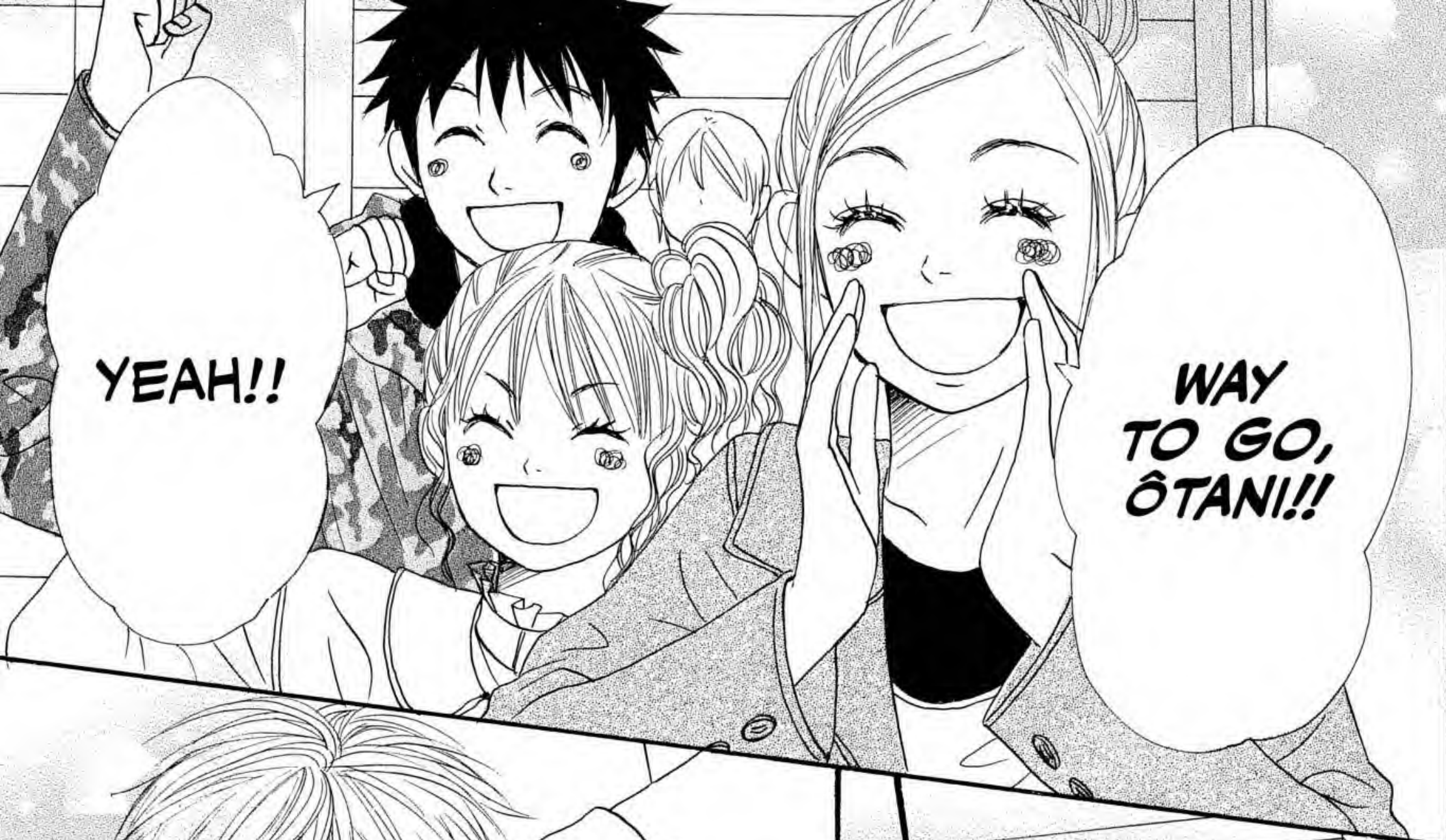
ÔTANI
SENSEI!

PLEASE
JOIN US,
SENPAI.



YOU
DID IT,
CAPTAIN!!

AWRIGHT!
I'M NOT
FINISHED
YET!

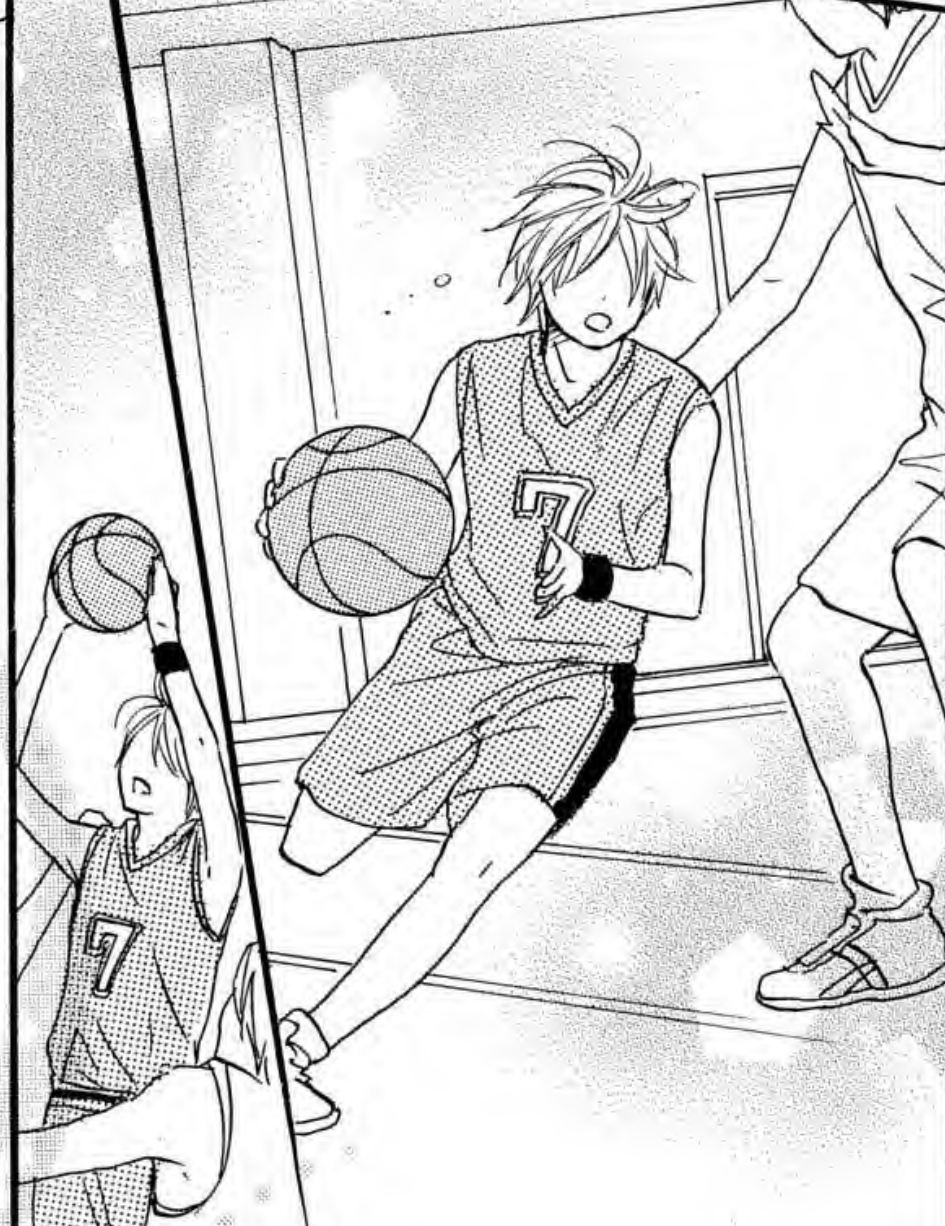


YEAH!!

**WAY
TO GO,
ÔTANI!!**



**I'D
BETTER
WATCH
CLOSELY.**



**THIS MAY
BE THE
LAST TIME
I'LL GET
TO SEE
ÔTANI PLAY
BASKET-
BALL.**



YOU
WERE
COOL
TOO,
ÔTANI.
♡

IN
YOUR
OWN
LITTLE
WAY.

WELL,
OBVIOUSLY.



HE
LOOKED
REALLY
COOL!

CHUBBY'S
GOT
GAME!

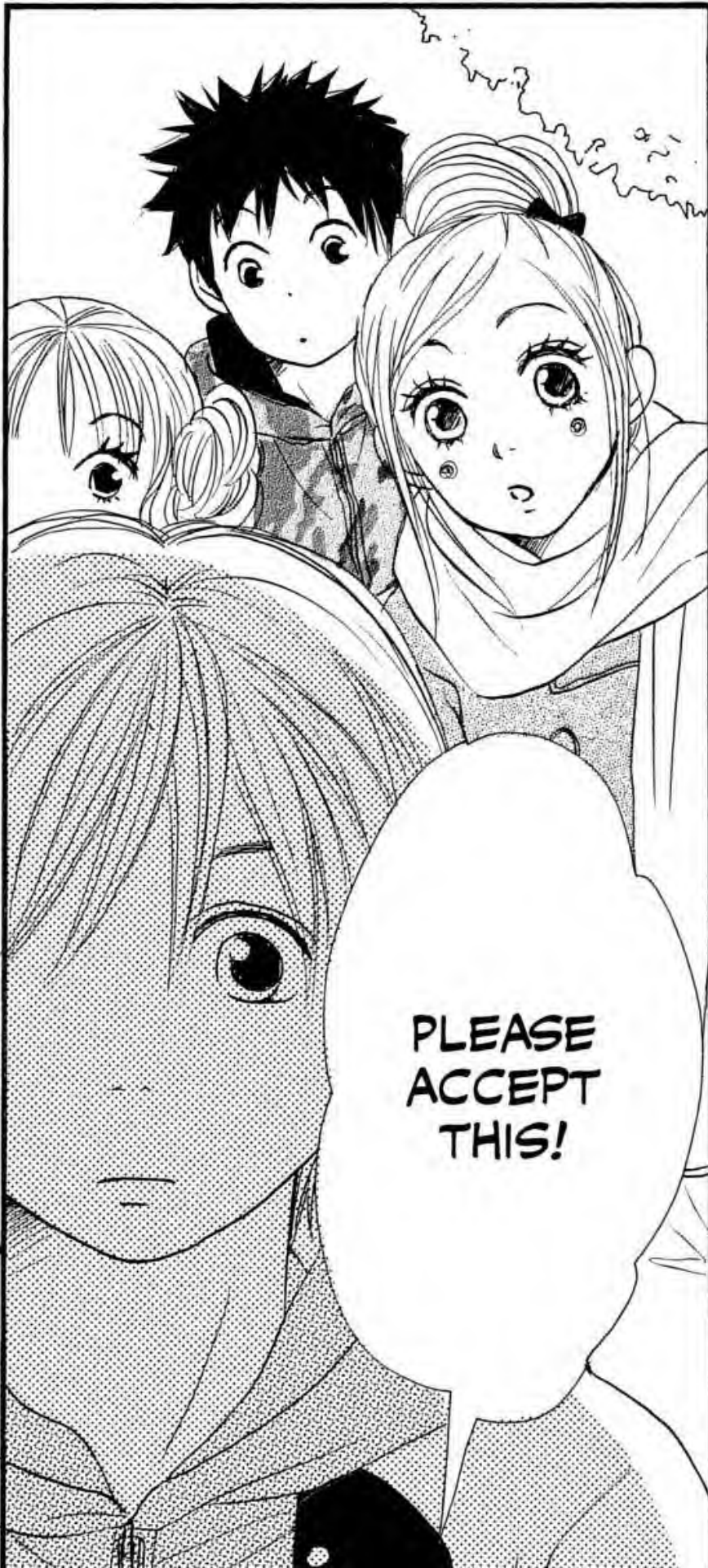
DIDN'T
I TELL
YOU?

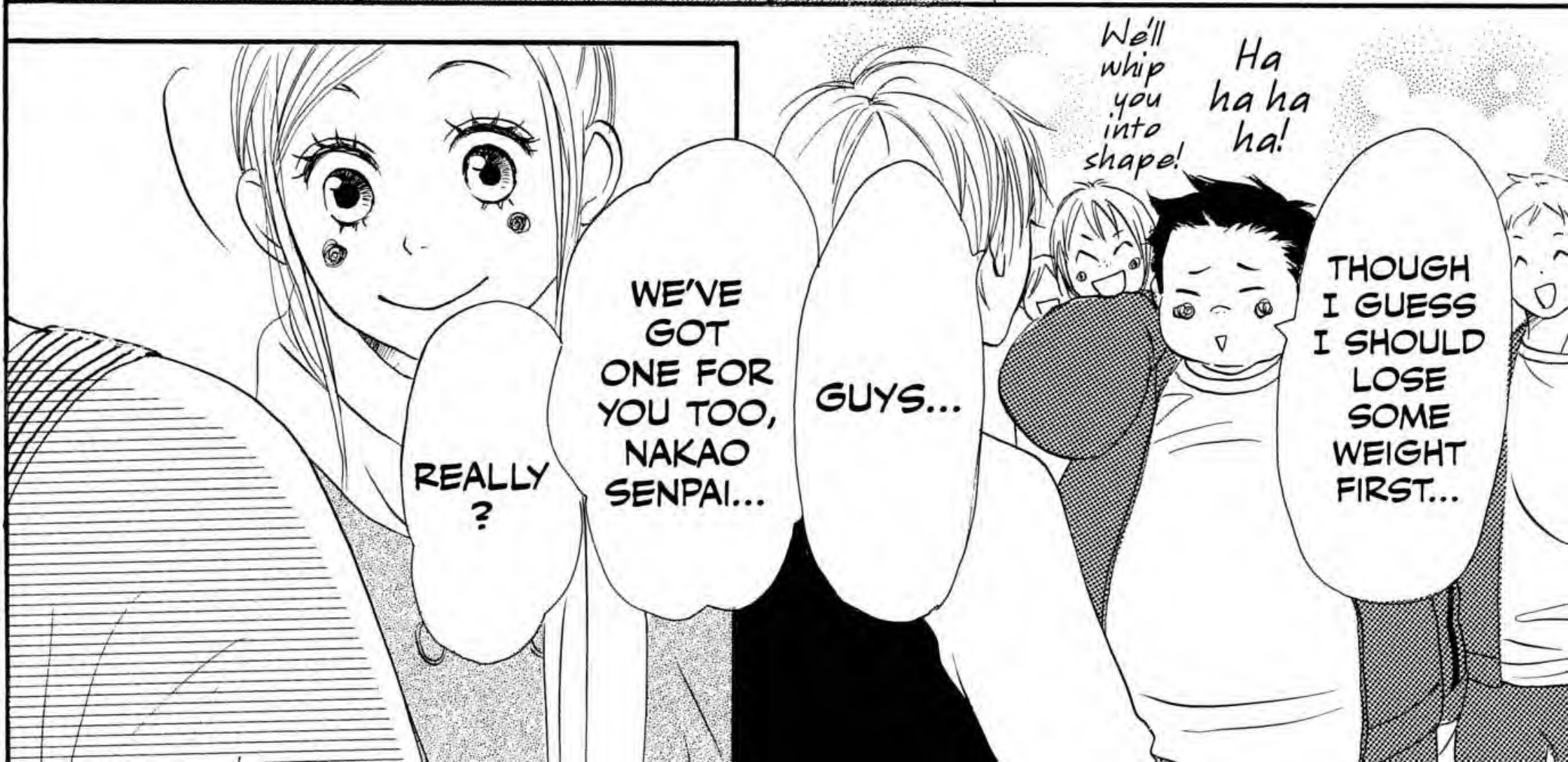


MY
WHAT?

HA
HA
HA...

ÔTANI
SENPAI!







THAT
WAS
NICE,
HUH?
♡

I WISH
I'D JOINED
A CLUB
IN HIGH
SCHOOL.

GUESS
IT'S TOO
LATE
FOR THAT
NOW.

WOW!
REALLY?



Ha
Ha
Ha

HEY,
ÔTANI'S
CRYING.

I JUST
GOT
SOME-
THING
IN MY
EYE!!

THE
CAMERA!
GET THE
CAMERA!!

Cut
it
out!





I'VE GOT
TO MAKE
ALL THE
MEMORIES
I CAN!

GRADUA-
TION'S
ALMOST
HERE.

《...to be continued》



My guitar playing was worse than I expected. I didn't realize I was so hopeless. I guess it was too much to believe I could do something now that I couldn't do when I was younger. As I gaze at the guitar I just bought, I'm filled with regret. It's become more of a room decoration than anything else.

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan Manga Award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyou-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

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STORY AND ART BY AYA NAKAHARA

Translation/JIN Productions

English Adaptation/Shaenon K. Garrity

Touch-up Art & Lettering/Gia Cam Luc

Design/Yuki Ameda

Editor/Carrie Shepherd

VP, Production/Alvin Lu

VP, Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye

VP, Sales & Product Marketing/Gonzalo Ferreyra

VP, Creative/Linda Espinosa

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